



NEW BUS STATION DELAYED



Dudley Bus Station – revamp is now on hold

Report by Richard Guttridge

A PLANNED revamp of Dudley bus station, as part of a £9 million scheme to improve public transport, has been put on hold, it can be revealed.

The borough council's regeneration boss Khurshid Ahmed said there was 'no timescale' for the work to begin – despite transport chiefs saying last year that it would start in the near future.

Councillor Ahmed said the development would still go ahead and maintained that there was a 'clear vision' for the bus station but he could not say when work would start.

He said uncertainty over the future of the Cavendish House office block and plans to link the Midland Metro with Dudley had delayed the scheme.

The bus station at Fisher Street is due to be modernised and extended while buses are also due to be upgraded to feature leather seats, wi-fi connections and charging points for mobile phones and tablets.

Uncertainty

Councillor Ahmed said the uncertainty over Cavendish House, off Trimble Road, which is due to be demolished and the site redeveloped into homes and shops, meant it was not known yet exactly where the Metro line extension into Dudley would run.

He explained that transport bosses wanted the plans for the Metro finalised before going ahead with the bus station revamp.

Councillor Ahmed said: "There is no timescale at this stage as to when it will happen but we are working with the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership.

"It's still on track but we want to do it right rather than piecemeal."

He added: "It has been made very clear that Dudley bus station needs to be revamped. It is one of the oldest in the West Midlands. But we don't know what's happening with the Metro, we don't know what's happening with Cavendish House."

It represents a change in tack from the council which said last May it was working with transport authority Centro to 'move forward with the proposals' in the 'near future'.

Councillor Ahmed said the bus station, Metro and Cavendish House were the 'last pieces of the jigsaw in Dudley' following other changes to revamp and improve the town centre.

Zoo staff save an abandoned chick



Dudley Zoo trainee keeper Jess Jones with the Humboldt penguin chick who was saved by vigilant staff and is now being reared

Pick up a penguin

AS World Penguin Day was celebrated on Monday Dudley Zoo keepers are celebrating saving an abandoned chick.

They are now being kept busy playing mother to the baby Humboldt penguin – in addition to caring for more than 75 other penguins at the site's Penguin Bay.

It is the largest parent-reared Humboldt group in the United Kingdom, which is a penguin originating from South America that breeds in coastal Chile and Peru.

Section leader Nicola Wright said: "It was very touch-and-go when we discovered it, as it wasn't doing well."

Wandered

"We think it's about a month-old, so has been parent-reared for a few weeks, but we've no idea who mum and dad are and why it was abandoned."

She added: "Sometimes if there's more than one chick the parents will abandon the weaker one, or if it's the stronger one it may have wandered off on its own and no-one came to get it back."

After taking the baby under their wing and feeding it three times a day with sprats, keepers are delighted with the little penguin's progress.

Nicola said: "The chick is doing really well, as long as it starts to put on weight we're happy. It responded to food immediately and is steadily increasing in size."

The chick will remain in the rearing room in the aviaries at the zoo for a few more weeks before being introduced to the other penguins in the walk-through enclosure at the Castle Hill attraction.

Keepers won't know the penguin's sex until it is an adult.

Dudley Zoo first started its penguin colony back in 1991 with five hand-reared chicks. That number that has grown steadily over the past 25 years and the oldest bird, Pingu, celebrated his quarter century this week.

Meanwhile, a black-and-white ruffed lemur named Earl is settling into his new home at Dudley Zoo.

He has been brought to Castle Hill as a breeding partner for female, Anna.

Senior keeper Jodie Dryden travelled to Woburn Safari Park in Bedfordshire to collect the 11-year-old.

Earl has been brought to partner 13-year-old Anna in the Small Primates House. Keepers are hoping that the couple will soon breed.

CRIME

Thieves target man, 76, with dementia

A DEMENTIA sufferer had £250 stolen from his pocket after falling victim to a distraction theft.

The 76-year-old man was targeted by the thieves after they stopped him in an alleyway in Market Street, Kingswinford, on Saturday, April 2. They showed him a map and asked for directions.

While he was distracted they stole cash from his pocket. Police have now turned to the public to help them catch the men.

Pc Paul Bunford, from Dudley Police, said: "They deliberately approached the man, who was elderly and vulnerable."

HEALTH

Ops cancelled as junior doctors strike

HUNDREDS of operations and appointments have been cancelled in Dudley as junior doctors strike again.

Junior doctors nationwide were called out on strike by the British Medical Association between 8am and 5pm on Tuesday and yesterday (Wednesday) in a wrangle over Health Secretary Jeremy Hunt's decision to impose a new contract.

Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust has seen 943 people have their appointments rearranged.

INDUSTRY

British Gas jobs may go by end of the year

BRITISH Gas could close its Oldbury site with a loss of more than 680 jobs by the end of the year, it can be revealed.

Bosses at the firm say staff at the Swallowfield One office and call centre could be subject to a phased redundancy programme ending in December if plans to close the site are rubber stamped.

It comes after British Gas announced shock proposals to close the site as part of a strategy to improve service and reduce costs to ensure competitive prices.

Warley MP John Spellar met bosses last week to explore options to save the firm's operation on Wolverhampton Road.

INSIDE

Check out new homes section



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Cautious welcome for Tata support

BLACK Country steelworkers have given a cautious welcome to Government moves to back any potential rescue of ailing Tata Steel in the UK.

The UK and Welsh governments have said they will provide a support package worth hundreds of millions of pounds to potential buyers of the business and could take a 25 per cent stake in a new venture.

The fate of the company has been uncertain since its Indian parent revealed it considering selling or closing its loss-making UK operations, which employ around 15,000 people.

That includes around 800 in the Black Country: nearly 600 at the Wednesfield Steelpark and the

rest at sites in Brierley Hill, Wednesbury and Walsall.

Chris Hale, regional secretary for the main steelworkers' union, Community, said: "There has been a cautious welcome from our members locally.

Hopeful

"It remains to be seen what will happen next, but from the union's point of view and of local workers, we consider it can only be a positive step forward.

"Our members are hopeful that a buyer will be found and welcome the Government's belated intervention."

He added: "Our members have been working on the Save Our Steel campaign for the last two or three years and it is a tribute to their hard work that the Government has now come to the table."

Tony Burke, assistant general secretary at Unite, added: "This is positive news for the Tata Steel workforce and starts to gives them, their families and communities the assurance that serious effort is being made to secure a new owner as the unions have demanded. In pledging to take a stake, ministers have responded to the calls of the steel unions, politicians, industry and public, who all recognise that we need a successful steel industry."

Accident tragedy as third son dies young

A NURSE who was hit by a car while on his motorbike was the last of three brothers to die young – leaving his heartbroken father to say: 'It's the final blow.'

Christian Hugh Davies, 50, known as Hugh to his friends, was killed on June 30 last year on Pedmore Road, Brierley Hill.

He died as Alan Holloway cut across his path when turning right on the dual carriageway and hit his Honda CBR. Despite the efforts of paramedics and passers-by, he was declared dead at the scene.

Holloway was this week sentenced to five months in prison, suspended for 18 months, after pleading guilty at Wolverhampton Crown Court.

Elwyn Davies, Hugh's father, told of the family's grief after Holloway was sentenced. He said: "We are devastated, we will never get over it. This is the third of three sons that I have lost, it's the final blow. He was a highly respected nurse, he had 28 years' experience. He was extremely well-liked, as was proved at his funeral where over 500 people were in attendance.

"The defence barrister spoke about what a good man Alan is, but the court didn't hear about Hugh and how well-loved and what a great nurse he was."

Illness

Hugh's older brother Mark died in 1997, aged 34, and younger brother Adrian had died in 1991, aged 22. Both deaths were due to illness.

Prosecutor Howard Searle told the court: "The defendant admits he didn't check properly before turning right, into the path of Mr Davies, not giving him time to apply his brakes. The defendant can't explain why he didn't check."

Holloway, 58, of Adelaide Street, Brierley Hill, previously admitted causing death by careless driving.

Defence barrister Michael Duck QC said: "He admits it was a momentary lapse in concentration. He is a broken man, he's devastated but whatever happens, that is nothing compared to what the family are feeling."

Holloway was also ordered to carry out 180 hours of unpaid work and was disqualified from driving for 18 months.

Mechanic gives classic car to museum



Jim Pease, left, hands over the 1934 Sunbeam Dawn to Black Country Living Museum Chief Executive Andrew Lovett

IT is a luxury car from a bygone era, when a Black Country car manufacturer was at the cutting-edge of motor vehicle technology.

In its day 'Sunbeam was on par with Rolls Royce', says Jim Pease, resident motor-vehicle mechanic at the Black Country Living Museum.

Now the 63-year-old has from his own collection donated one of the rarest Sunbeam models to the Tip-top Road heritage attraction.

The car, a Sunbeam 'Dawn' built in 1934, had been on loan to

the museum for several years. But now the historic vehicle, in racing green and valued at up to £20,000, is under full ownership by the museum.

Jim, who is a mechanic at the museum and bought the car in 1996, said he felt the museum was the 'rightful home for the car', which was built just a few miles away in Wolverhampton.

Jim, aged 63, from Dudley, said: "We are only custodians of these things. It was built in the Sunbeam

factory and so the museum is its rightful home. The museum has a Black Country vehicle collection.

"Sunbeam was absolutely brilliant. It broke land speed records but the company wasn't interested in selling the cars to the public. Their client list was unbelievable - queens, lords. Sunbeam was on par with Rolls Royce."

Jim estimates only eight or nine of the 1930s Dawn models were built. The car has a 1600cc petrol engine and a top speed of 70mph.

Pervert lost prison job over child porn images

A PRISON officer lost his job after being found with child porn. Police swooped on the Kingswinford home of Christopher Parkes after he had returned from a night shift at Oakwood Prison in Featherstone.

Wolverhampton Crown Court heard that officers had been tipped off that the 43-year-old father-of-two was among those who had been in contact with a man who had been transferring files containing indecent images of children.

The other man's computer equipment showed that he had been in touch with somebody using the name latenightguy1 on April 3, 2014 and had later sent indecent images of children to that person, said Mr Trevor Meegan, prosecuting.

Inquiries revealed that latenightguy1 was the alias of Parkes. Police visited his family home in Holcroft Road, Kingswinford, in July last year. His computer equipment was checked by experts who discovered 74 indecent images of children - moving and still - stored on it. These included two regarded as being in the most serious category.

Parkes, now of Pinewood Close, Wombourne, confessed to police that over the previous two years he had been chatting to Skype users and discussing child sex.

Parkes, of previous good character, admitted six charges of making indecent images between July 25, 2012, and July 7, 2015 and was given a three-year community order. He was also put on the Sex Offender Register and made the subject of a 10-year Sexual Harm Prevention Order.

Man injured as car overturned

A MAN was seriously ill in hospital with head injuries after his car overturned on the M5 motorway near Stourbridge at the weekend.

The incident happened at around 9am on Saturday between Junction 4 at Stourbridge and Junction 3 at Halesowen on the northbound carriageway.

The man, believed to be in his 40s, was cut free from the vehicle and airlifted to hospital.

The motorway was closed northbound between the junctions for Stourbridge and Birmingham West and Central.

The southbound carriageway was also closed to allow the West Midlands Air Ambulance to land.

It took emergency crews about 40 minutes to free the man from the vehicle.

Road goes to one lane for resurfacing

ONE lane of a busy Halesowen road is due to be shut until tomorrow (Friday).

Bromsgrove Road A459, which links Manor Way and the M5, will run on a one-lane basis from 9.30am to 3.30pm while carriageway resurfacing is carried out by Dudley Council.

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Rescue deal saves more than 100 jobs at company

MORE than 100 jobs have been saved in the rescue of a crisis-hit Kingswinford furniture manufacturer.

Ultra Furniture, based on the Pen-snett Estate, had made 84 redundancies since losing a major customer in February.

But it has now been bought in a pre-pack administration deal, allowing it to keep trading and saving the jobs of the remaining 116 staff.

Administrators from accountancy firm RSM in Birmingham were appointed and sold the business to PPKidd 56 Ltd, a new firm set up by Ultra's managing director Glen Aston. Ultra's design director Dennis Milligan has joined him as a director of the new firm.

The administrators said that despite new sales and cost-cutting measures Ultra was unable to trade out of its difficulties or secure additional investment.

Joint administrator Diana Frangou said: "Our key priority throughout this process was to rescue the business, and we are extremely pleased to have been able to achieve this.

"Its rescue was of upmost importance, not only for its direct stakeholders but also for the local economy and community."

Mr Aston said: "The two key motivations behind delivering this transaction were protecting the jobs of 116 employees and ensuring that loyal customers were not let down.

"The whole process has been very difficult and traumatic for all involved."

Man in court on robbery charges

A WOLLASTON man is to appear at Wolverhampton Crown Court charged with four robbery offences after two shops were raided in Stourbridge within minutes of each other.

Unemployed Daniel Breakwell, aged 27, of Forge Road, appeared at Dudley magistrates last Wednesday after allegedly being involved in the armed raids along with a 25-year-old man, who was later released on police bail. Officers were alerted to a robbery at Tesco Express in Platts Road, Amblecote, just before 10.30pm on Monday, April 18. The Co-Op store in The Broadway, Norton, had been as struck minutes earlier. Cash was taken from both.

Mr Breakwell will be appear at Wolverhampton Crown Court on May 10.

Spring fair at community centre

A SPRING fair is taking place at a Dudley community centre next weekend. Wall Heath Community Association is holding its annual spring fair at the Community Centre in Enville Road, on May 7, from 2pm.

Family's tribute to beautiful Nadine



Dudley College student Nadine Foster, 18

THE devastated family of a teenage mother who died after a crash in Stourbridge have said they have been 'left with a void that will never be filled'.

Nadine Foster died after being involved in a car accident on Hagley Road, Oldswinford.

The 18-year-old former Dudley College student was described as a 'happy, smiley girl'.

Nadine, from Stourbridge, is believed to have been a front-seat passenger in a Ford Focus that crashed into a wall on Saturday, April 16. She

was taken to hospital but died from her injuries four days later

In a statement, the family said: "We are devastated to have lost our beautiful Nadine. She was a loving mother, daughter and grand-daughter.

Loss

"She was a happy, smiley girl and the light of our lives.

"Nadine will be missed every day; her loss has left a void that will never be filled. We ask that people kindly respect our privacy at this sad time."

West Midlands Police has launched

an investigation and have appealed for anyone who witnessed the crash to come forward.

PC Glynn Hanks, from the collision investigation unit, said: "Our investigation team is continuing to piece together exactly what happened and what led to the collision. I would appeal to anyone who saw anything and has not yet spoken to us to get in touch by calling the unit on 101."

"This is a tragic and devastating time for the family and officers from our dedicated family liaison officers continue to support them."

Bankers' fines to pay for £40k Foley statue

A MAN who saved 10,000 Jews from the Nazi concentration camps, Frank Foley, is set to be honoured with a £40,000 bronze statue in his home town of Stourbridge, the Chancellor has announced.

The plans were unveiled at a Parliamentary event during which George Osborne spoke of his admiration of 'the British Schindler', who risked his life on numerous occasions to save Jews in Hitler's Germany when he was a British intelligence officer in 1930s Berlin.

Mr Osborne said funding for the statue will come from fines paid by bankers.

The event in Portcullis House at Westminster was organised by Dudley North Labour MP Ian Austin, who has campaigned for a lasting tribute to Major Foley with the backing of Stourbridge Tory MP Margot James.

Mr Osborne said: "Ten thousand people – and all their children and grandchildren and great-grandchildren – owe their lives to Major Frank Foley. His story reminds us that even in the darkest times for humanity there are points of light.

Extraordinary

"So I am pleased to say the Government will work with Ian Austin and Margot James to fund the statue to commemorate his extraordinary life and actions.

"We will use fines paid by bankers. It's right that we use penalties imposed on those who demonstrated the worst of British values to commemorate someone who demonstrated the best."

Mr Austin said: "I am absolutely delighted the Chancellor has agreed to fund a statue to Stourbridge hero Frank Foley so people can learn about him and our country's role in fighting for freedom, democracy and tolerance against Nazi Germany."

Margot James said she was looking forward to working Stourbridge residents to decide the best place for the statue. She added: "Frank Foley was a great British hero who saved thousands of lives from the horrors of the Holocaust. He represented the best of British values."

The Chancellor also announced that £500,000 would be given to the Holocaust Educational Trust (HET) for its Trust's Lessons from Auschwitz Project.

Karen Pollock MBE, chief executive of the HET, said: "The Chancellor's announcement has guaranteed the future of our project for the next three years. We are deeply grateful for his personal commitment to our work and our cause. It is also great



Chancellor George Osborne and Dudley North MP Ian Austin chat with Holocaust survivor Zigi Shipper

news that a statue will be built in Stourbridge in honour of Frank Foley, an incredible man whose bravery deserves to be recognised in this permanent way."

Attendees at the event included Major Foley's great nephew Stephen Higgs and Mayor of Dudley, Councillor Steve Waltho. Michael Smith, author of Frank Foley: The Spy Who Saved Ten Thousand Jews, spoke at the event.

Major Foley used his position working undercover as a passport control officer to help Jews escape from Nazi Germany. He entered concentration camps such as Sachsenhausen and presented visas to the camp authorities so that Jews could be freed.

After serving in the Second World War, he retired to Stourbridge where he lived at Eveson Road in Norton until his death in 1958.

He was accorded the status Righteous Amongst the Nations by Israel in 1999, and awarded British Hero of the Holocaust posthumously in 2010. In 2004 a plaque was erected in his honour at the British Embassy in Berlin, and last year a tree and plaque were unveiled in Mary Stevens Park.



Frank Foley – saved lives of Jewish families

NEWS IN BRIEF

DY Eye is hailed a wheel success

THE Dudley Eye ferris wheel, which propelled the town into the national spotlight, was being taken down after a final successful weekend.

Councillors and traders have hailed the attraction a major success, with more than 11,000 people taking a trip on it. They were forced to defend the DY Eye and the town itself after TV presenter Piers Morgan mocked the attraction on Good Morning Britain, saying he could think of 'no grimmer panorama than Dudley'.

The wheel was such a success that is scheduled to return next year.

Steaming ahead with country fair

A POPULAR steam and country fair is being held at Himley Park again this summer.

The hall and grounds will be hosting the event, which is now in its third year and has grown to include a range of vintage vehicles and a large fair including food and crafts.

The event will take place on June 5 and is free admission. To take part with a vehicle or to run a stall at the event, contact Jacki Wynn, assistant events officer on (01384) 817822.

Meanwhile, Himley Hall is open 2 to 5pm including Bank Holiday Monday.

Man helped from vehicle after crash

A TWO-CAR crash in Brierley Hill saw a man rescued from his vehicle with minor injuries.

The accident happened in Amblecote Road at around 10.20pm on Thursday.

Two fire engines from Brierley Hill and Haden Cross fire station attended the scene of the crash.

A fire service spokesman said: "One man was taken to Russells Hall Hospital with leg pain after he was assisted from the vehicle."

Kennels boost for Staffie rescue charity

A CHARITY that supports Staffordshire Bull Terriers is appealing for funds.

The Happy Staffie Rescue is appealing for money to buy new kennels.

The charity received a cheque for just over £1,000 on April 19 after a fundraising event at Sedgley Working Men's Club.

Founded in 2009, the charity is an independent dog rescue that specialises in supporting the breed. See www.happystaffierescue.org.uk.

Blaze at industrial site

A FIRE broke out in a spray unit at a steel fabrication business in Brierley Hill. The incident happened at the business, off Brettell Lane, just before 7.30am on Friday. Two fire crews from Brierley Hill and Stourbridge attended to ventilate the unit at Waterside Business Park. No one was injured.

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AND now, positively the last in our thread of things misunderstood in childhood. A former teacher tells me of children reciting the Lord's Prayer and fervently asking not to be led into Thames Station. Thanks for all your contributions.

LIKE an errant spouse promising to improve, the European Commission president Jean-Claude Juncker admits the EU has lost "parts of its attractiveness" to ordinary citizens and interfered too much in their private lives. Like so many errant spouses, he then spoils it by making a threat, calling Brexit "pie in the sky." Either way, it's too late, pal. Your pie's in the oven and we're packing our bags.

IF a shop in your high street put up a sign saying "No Muslims" or "No Jews," you would probably be horrified. You would expect the police to act. Yet it was claimed on Radio 4's Sunday programme that some Muslim shops are openly displaying signs telling members of the Ahmadi community that they are not welcome as customers. Does anybody care about this blatant breach of our race laws? Over to you, chief constable . . .

ANGELA Merkel says migrants planning to stay in Germany should be obliged to learn German. Haven't they suffered enough? A reader once memorably defined German as "an interesting language but too many fahrts to be taken seriously."

ALTHOUGH she was only 62, many of Victoria Wood's best characters were inspired by those strong, self-sacrificing, tragicomic and endlessly resourceful 1940s women who coped with wartime separation and bereavement by carrying on as normal, whistling as they worked and never letting the tears show. In our race-memory there is a time when England was populated almost entirely by Victoria Woods, making do and mending, and was better for it.

JEREMY Corbyn is on fine form attacking the Tory plan to impose academy status on all schools. Why present him with such a target in the first place? Like the poll tax and bedroom tax, the academy plan is a gift to the Opposition. It unites Labour, divides the Tories and mobilises neighbourhoods against dictats from Whitehall. And if it's such a good idea, Dave, then why wasn't it in your election manifesto?

HER Majesty's 90th birthday has focused attention on the issue of monarchy. These are hard times for the republicans because the monarchy has never been so popular. If we had a revolution tomorrow and the next head of state was elected, I bet the successful candidate would be Prince William, by a mile.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

List of candidates in the local elections

*denotes incumbent party
BAINES, Julie (Lab*); FLYNN, Ian (Lib Dem); LEE, Pete (UKIP); MISHAQ, Asan (Cons)
Belle Vale
HARTLESS, Jon Jak (Green); RUSSELL, Donella Joy (Lab*); TAYLOR, Laura (Cons)
Brierley Hill
COLLEY, Rich (UKIP); CRAIGIE, Serena (Lab*); DAVIES, Cei (Cons); ELCOCK, Gordon (Green)
Brookmoor and Pensnett
GREENAWAY, Sue (Cons); HARRIS, Marcia (UKIP); MARTIN, John (Lab*); SWEENEY, Benjamin (Green)
Castle and Priory
ASTON, Margaret (Lab*); DAVIES, Tony (UKIP); WHATLING, Clive (Cons)

Coseley East
DUFFIELD, Martin (Cons); RIDNEY, Sue (Lab*); WINYARD, Craig (UKIP)
Cradley and Wollescote
ARCHER, Daniel (Green); BOLTON, Mitchell (UKIP); NAYLOR, Phil (Cons); PARTBRIDGE, Gaye (Lab*)
Gornal
BRANWOOD, Dave (Lab*); BROOKES, Brian Thomas (UKIP); STANLEY, David (Cons); VIRGO, Ryan (Green)
Halesowen North
BILLS, Hilary (Lab*); ELLIOTT, Jonathan (Cons); HUNT, Nathan (UKIP); PAYNE, John (Green)
Halesowen South
MAXWELL, Jenny (Green); RUSSELL, Mark (Lab); TAYLOR, Nicola (UKIP); VICKERS, David (Cons*)

Hayley Green & Cradley South
BUTTERY, Ruth (Cons); FREEMAN, Malcolm (Lab); HILL, Jennifer (UKIP*); ROYLE, Colin (Green)
Kingswinford North and Wall Heath
BARRAS, Donna (Cons); RALPH, David (UKIP); TYLER, David (Lab*)
Kingswinford South
DUCKWORTH, Vicky (Green); JOHNSON, Luke (Cons*); RALPH, Lesley (UKIP); SALEEM, Shaz (Lab)
Lye and Stourbridge North
ALI, Muhammad (Cons); ROWLETT, Lawrence (Green); WALE, Vanessa (Lab*); WILDE, Wendy (UKIP)
Netherton, Woodside and St Andrew's
DANIELS, Stephen (UKIP); MCCOMISH, William (Green*); PERKS, Christine (Lab); RAZZAQ, Mohammad (Cons)
Norton
ARCHER, Pam (Green); ATTWOOD, Mike (Cons*); BRAMALL, Christopher

(Lib Dem); POWELL, David (UKIP); REBBECK, Clive (Lab)
Pedmore and Stourbridge East - Two seats up for election due to Mike Wood (Cons) becoming an MP
DEAN, Jonathan (Lab); HANSON, Simon (Lib Dem); HIGGINS, Phil (Lab); JONES, Les (Cons*); LEES, Angus (Cons); LITTLE, Craig (Green); MUCKLOW, Stephanie (Lib Dem); SARGEANT, Lee (UKIP); WILSON, Glen (UKIP)
Quarry Bank and Dudley Wood
ARCHER, Maurice (Green); BLAKE, Christopher (Cons); COTTERILL, Bryan (Lab*); HORTON, Dean (UKIP); KNIGHT, Adam (Trade Unionist and Soc Coalition)
Sedgley
CORFIELD, Damian (Lab); EVANS, Michael (Cons*); KEASEY, Shaun (UKIP)

St James's
AHMED, Asif (Lab*); CROSSEN, Adrian Denis (Green); LLOYD, Graeme (UKIP); SULLIVAN, Wayne (Cons); WESTON, Kevin (Indep)
St Thomas's
ALI, Shaikat*; MILLWARD, Daryl (Cons); WIMLETT, Phil (UKIP)
Upper Gornal and Woodsetton
BROOKES, Daniel (Green); CASEY, Keiran (Lab*); JONES, Karen (UKIP); WATTS, Neil (Cons)
Wollaston and Stourbridge Town
FRANCE, Benjamin (Lib Dem); HALE, Chris (Lab*); HOPWOOD, Alan (Cons); LOWE, Maxim (UKIP); MOHR, Andi (Green)
Wordsley
BILLINGHAM, Kevin (Lab); LEWIS, Kerry (UKIP); MAGUIRE, Catherine (Green); RAZZAQ, Kamran (Cons)

Battle for control will be closely-run affair

Report by Peter Madeley

THE battle for control of Dudley Town Hall is expected to be a closely-run affair as voters prepare to head to the polls on May 5.

A total of 25 seats are up for grabs across the borough, with 15 of them currently held by councillors from the ruling Labour group.

Last year's elections saw Labour retain its grip on the council, although its majority dipped as the Conservatives made ground thanks to Labour losing four seats.

The casualties included deputy leader Stuart Turner, who lost the Gornal seat to Tory Anne Millward by the slender margin of 151 votes.

The Conservatives kept hold of their seat in Sedgley by a majority of 1,040 with Tina Westwood taking the reins from her father David Caunt, while the Tories' Jeff Hill won the Hayley Green and Cradley South seat.

Opposition

Labour currently holds 38 of the authority's 72 seats. The Conservatives form the opposition with 25 seats, while UKIP has seven councillors after failing to make any ground in 2015.

One seat each is held by an independent candidate and the Green Party. The Lib Dems are without a single councillor.

Last year the turnout was a healthy 64.99 per cent, with a total of 155,214 votes cast out of an electorate of 240,310.

There have already been two by-elections in the borough this year. Kingswinford North and Wall Heath was held by the Conservatives' Edward Lawrence after Natalie Neale quit for personal reasons in December.

Meanwhile Cathryn Bayton held the St James's seat for Labour that had been made vacant by the death of popular councillor Mary Roberts, who



Hazel Turner is standing down



Les Jones, Pedmore-Stourbridge East



Hilary Bills contests Halesowen North



Green Party's Bill McComish



Gaye Partridge, Cradley & Wollescote



Mike Wood has become an MP

served the ward for eight years. Both by-elections were marked by extremely low turnouts of just 26 per cent and 18 per cent respectively.

This time around two seats are available in Pedmore and Stourbridge East, due to Mike Wood standing down after he was elected as MP for Dudley South.

In the same ward Les Jones, who is contesting the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner elections on the same day, will defend his seat.

The seats of three cabinet members are on the line.

Environmental services boss Hilary Bills will contest Halesowen North, while Dave Branwood, member for adult social care will head to the polls in Gornal. Housing chief Gaye Partridge goes to the vote in Cradley and Wollescote against Simon Archer (Green Party), Mitchell Bolton (UKIP) and Tory Phil Naylor.

Hazel Turner is standing down after representing Hayley Green and Cradley South for 13 years.

Labour has now controlled the authority for the last four years.

Rockers for reunion as Communion will return

HEAVY rock supergroup Black Country Communion is to reform in the new year, singer and bass player Glenn Hughes has announced.

The 64-year-old former Trapeze and Deep Purple star from Cannock is re-uniting with Dudley-born drummer Jason Bonham, 49, son of late Led Zeppelin star John.

Star guitarist Joe Bonamassa along with keyboard player Derek Sherinian is also back on board with the band which split in 2013 after releasing three albums.

Hughes announced on Twitter: "Preparing to re-launch Rocket Ship BCC in 2017." A photograph of the band accompanied it.

The US-based rocker was back in the UK with his mother Sheila to attend the funeral of his father William at St Luke's Church in Cannock last week.

His father died in a care home aged 90 on April 8 - the day Glenn Hughes was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in the United States.

Record producer Kevin Shirley has also confirmed he will be working with the reunited BCC next year.

He said on Facebook: "We're refurbishing the fuel tanks and refitting the rocket. Getting ready for takeoff in 2017 again, and I'm fired up . . . Who's ready for another dose of BCC?!" Bonham posted a photo of Black Country Communion with the caption "2017!!"

The band had a triumphant homecoming gig at Wolverhampton Civic Hall in 2010.

Car blaze causes rush-hour delays

A CAR burst into flames on a busy route in Dudley, leading to major delays during the morning rush-hour.

The silver Chrysler was destroyed after catching fire on Birmingham Road, Dudley, near Tesco at the Burnt Tree junction, last Thursday.

The blaze led to Birmingham Road being closed in both directions at around 8.30am, which caused delays of around half an hour. The fire is believed to have started accidentally.

West Midlands Fire Service spokesman Matthew Smith said: "Two firefighters wearing breathing apparatus used two hose-reel jets to tackle the blaze."

The carriageway heading out of Dudley was reopened once the fire was under control. One lane on the opposite side was shut until 11am.

House stuffed full of cannabis plants

MORE than 300 cannabis plants were discovered at a house in Dudley following a police raid.

Four rooms of the house on Himley Road, including the loft, were packed with a total of 310 cannabis plants. The discovery was made last week.

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Three staff are under investigation at council

THREE members of staff at Dudley Council are being investigated following allegations of fraud, bribery and corruption.

The authority confirmed that investigations were ongoing relating to allegations made during the past 12 months by whistleblowers within the council.

Allegations relate to abuse of position, bribery and corruption, theft of time and misuse of council resources. They were brought to light as the council published its latest whistleblowing policy.

Bosses said they wanted staff to feel they could raise concerns about wrongdoing within the authority.

Two members of staff were also sacked and another resigned after three cases were proven, but details of what they did and when they left the authority were not revealed.

Philip Tart, strategic director for resources and transformation, said cases of misconduct within the council were rare. He said: "Thankfully the number of these types of cases is very low amongst more than 10,000 local authority staff, with three issues currently under investigation."

"We have a robust and transparent anti-fraud system in place as we look to protect every penny of public money."

A report stated the authority was committed to ensuring that it, and the people working for it, comply with the highest standards of openness, honesty, integrity and accountability.

Springboard to fun for over 50s

PEOPLE aged 50 years and over can take part in a range of activities at a centre in Dudley.

The Springboard Activity Centre, at the Waterfront, Brierley Hill, will be offering choir and drama sessions, Tai Chi and Pilates, Zumba, aerobic and tone sessions, strictly-style dancing, a men's morning, line dancing, book and cuppa sessions and table tennis.

There will also be new courses starting in May which include tutorials on using iPads and other tablets, computers for beginners, photography, acrylic art, watercolour art and glass engraving.

The activities have been funded by the Big Lottery. For further information call (01384) 571830 or email springboard@ageukdudley.org.uk.

Nurse scheme on awards shortlist

DUDLEY'S student nurse programme has received recognition from the Student Nursing Times Awards by making the shortlist in two categories. Winners are announced in London tonight (Thursday).

The schoolmaster who went to war



Mr Baxter and wife Nora at home in 1913

WAR hero Edward Felix Baxter was the third of five children, born to corn merchant Charles and wife Annita, in Oldswinford.

Enrolled at Hartlebury Grammar School in May 1894, he went on to further his education at Christ's Hospital in Sussex, leaving school on July 31, 1901. Baxter had an early career as a motorcycle racer, something which helped him later on in his life as a despatch rider in the forces and was also one of his main interests.

He married Leonara Mary Cornish on February 24, 1906 at the Register

Office in West Derby, Liverpool, and their daughter Leonara Frances was born in June 1907.

He signed up with the Royal Engineers when the First World War was announced, progressing on to the Mersey Defence Corps before his final posting as Second Lieutenant in 1/8th King's Liverpool Regiment.

A major trench raid carried out near Blairville on April 18 would be the last day Baxter was seen alive. The official citation said he was awarded the Victoria Cross for his 'most conspicuous bravery.'

It was later reported Second Lieutenant Baxter had been fatally wounded and buried by the Germans, aged just 30.

He was confirmed dead in July 1916, with his wife receiving the Victoria Cross on his behalf in November 1916.

In a letter she received from a Colonel Fagan, he told her: "The raid was successful, due to a great extent to the gallantry and resource of your husband. The men say his gallantry and coolness were marvellous. I have lost one of my best officers."

Hometown honour for hero of trenches raid

A FIRST World War hero from Stourbridge who was killed leading a charge into enemy trenches has been honoured in his hometown, nearly one hundred years after his death.

A plaque was unveiled in memory of Victoria Cross recipient Oldswinford-born Second Lieutenant Edward Felix Baxter at Mary Stevens Park, Stourbridge, in a ceremony attended by relatives and dignitaries.

Holding a live bomb in his hand during a wire-cutting mission in the trenches, Second Lieutenant Baxter slipped. The explosive dropped to the floor and the pin was released but the brave soldier quickly took out the detonator and smothered it in the ground. His action prevented the alarm being raised and so saved the lives of his comrades.

During the raid itself, on the night of April 17 and 18, he led the storming party - known as the 'Forty Thieves'. First into the German trench, he shot a sentry with his revolver and then helped to bomb German dug-outs and afterwards assisted the last of his men back over the parapet.

But he was never seen alive again. It is believed that the Germans buried his body as his grave was discovered during the British advance in 1918 and he was re-interred in Fillières British Cemetery.

Sacrifice

A ceremony was held at the park to commemorate his sacrifice. It was attended by family members Christopher Firmstone and Dr Sue Clegg.

Retired architect Christopher Firmstone, from Wordsley, who discovered a family link to Mr Baxter, said of the ceremony: "I was actually quite moved and it reminded me of the sacrifices all those young men made in the First World War."

Dr Sue Clegg, from Kent, who also discovered a connection to Mr Baxter, said she was very honoured to attend the ceremony.

Born in Oldswinford in 1885 in a house which is now the Crabmill pub, the young Edward Baxter later moved to Liverpool to teach. He was also a keen motorcycle racer who had competed in the 1910 Isle of Mann TT.

He was a headteacher when war broke out but signed up immediately. His skill on the bike meant he initially served as a despatch rider. He moved from the Royal Engineers to the Defence Corps before his final posting as Second Lieutenant in 1/8th King's (Liverpool) Regiment in France.

Second Lieutenant Baxter's memorial will be the first of three in the borough with Private Thomas Barratt of Coseley and Lance Corporal Thomas Bryan of Stourbridge also to be commemorated.



Mayor of Dudley Councillor Steve Waltho lays a wreath at the plaque unveiled in Mary Stevens Park



Second Lieutenant Edward Felix Baxter



Standards dipped in honour of 2nd Lt Baxter

NEWS IN BRIEF

Junior joggers' park race invite

A FREE organised running event for children takes place in Dudley next month for all interested little joggers.

The Kids Run Free event takes place at Priory Park Pavilion, Priory Park, Priory Road, Dudley, on Saturday, May 7.

All ages are welcome from toddlers to teens. Individual races include one for toddlers to run 50 metres, three to four-year-olds to run 100 metres, five to six-year-olds to run 250m and to run as many 250m laps as they want. See the website www.kidsrunfree.co.uk/site/krf-running-races/locations

Outpatients to use new entrance

VISITORS to the Dudley Guest outpatients centre will have to access the site at a different point over the next few weeks.

Construction work at the former Guest Hospital means the usual access on Tipton Road will be blocked. Patients will instead have to enter the site further up Tipton Road for the next six to eight weeks.

Building work on homes at the site began in March. The development will be made up of 127 new-build homes and 30 refurbished properties. It is expected to be completed in 2019.

Woman in hospital after kitchen blaze

A 44-year-old woman was taken to hospital after a fire broke out at a house in Dudley.

Two fire engines attended the blaze that happened at a semi in Milton Street, Pensnett, at 12.11am on April 19.

Oxygen treatment was given to a man in his 20s and first aid was given to the woman outside the property.

The fire took place in the rear kitchen at the house after a chip pan had set alight.

Stepping out at new line dancing sessions

PEOPLE have been urged to put on their dancing shoes and get involved with new line-dancing classes being held in Pensnett.

The classes started last Friday at the Pensnett Community Centre and are being run by Nigel Rider. The sessions will cater to beginners and run from 7.15pm to 8.45pm.

For more information call Mr Rider on (01384) 287551.

Tickets can be bought on the door and will cost £4.

Animal charity boost

MORE than £160 was collection for an animal charity this month.

A street collection was held in Stourbridge on April 2 with money going towards World Animal Protection.

There was more than £165 donated on the day.

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IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews



At least Villa can't be blamed for this one

ANOTHER week, another gagging order from a celebrity trying to keep their nefarious activities out of the public eye.

This time the miscreant is reported to be a Premier League football manager, a married man who reportedly demanded some extra risqué photographs as a reward when his team won away. I think, on that basis we can rule out anybody connected with Aston Villa. Because they would have been in for a very long wait.

GOOD old Barack Obama, what would we do without him? During last week's visit to Britain, he urged the people of this sceptered isle to vote in favour of remaining within the European Union, arguing that America would prefer to negotiate with large trading blocs.

He's obviously forgotten that his country used to be part of the biggest trading bloc in the world. Indeed, it used to be a bit like the EU in that it charged the American people a lot of money, and gave them precious little democratic representation in return.

It was called the British Empire, and I believe there were quite a few people on the other side of the Atlantic who weren't too keen on the arrangement. In fact they were so incensed that they went to war to become an independent nation.

Still, that's all water under the bridge. If Britain votes to leave the EU, I'm sure we will take them back.

JUST a week to go now until the police and crime commissioner elections for the West Midlands, Staffordshire and West Mercia. While the late Bob Jones, who became the first elected commissioner for the West Midlands in 2012, famously said he hoped that his post would one day be made redundant, I always thought he did himself a disservice. Both Bob, his successor – not to mention countless other commissioners up and down the country – have done a commendable job in making the police more accountable and receptive to the general public. And despite fears about the cost, they have proved in many cases to be much cheaper than the old dinosaur-like old police committees.

That said, I do think it might be time to look at changing the name. Police commissioner, fair enough. But crime commissioner? Do we really want somebody who commissions crime?

A MURAL depicting somebody with a paint roller has appeared on the side of a balti house in Brownhills, sparking speculation about whether it is a Banksy. Sounds improbable, but what we do know is it looks a mess. While taking a spray can to other people's property may seem romantic in parts of London, for millions of working people graffiti is the bane of their lives. We should be punishing these idiots, not celebrating them.



Jim Charles with bodybuilders Dave Reece and Steven Collins



New generation – Steven Collins pumps iron at Jim's Gym



Jim met stars Frank Zane and Arnie Schwarzenegger

Training keeps Jim going strong at 77

DAVID CALLAGHAN meets ex-bodybuilder Jim Charles, now 77, who has run Jim's Gym in Lye for nearly 60 years

FROM meeting a teenage Arnold Schwarzenegger to hosting the British Universe championships at Birmingham's Symphony Hall, Jim Charles has seen it all.

Former bodybuilder Jim, now aged 77, has been running Jim's Gym, in Chapel Street, Lye, for nearly 60 years. And, in his own words, still 'trains as hard now as I ever did'.

He met Schwarzenegger back in 1966 during his early road to fame when he entered Mr Universe contests alongside the future Terminator.

He now stages the Midland Body Building Championships at Brierley Hill Civic Hall and is a council member with the National Amateur Body Building Association, where he has unearthed some top body builders from the area over the years as well as overseas.

Jim was awarded the prestigious honour of a gold gong in 2012 for his meticulous score-keeping and named top judge at the body building association congress event in Belfast for his precision during Britain and Universe competitions.

Dedication

He had already picked up a lifetime achievement award at the National Fitness Awards two years earlier and in 2008 he received a surprise personal letter congratulating him on his career from the biggest name to ever emerge from the bodybuilding world – Hollywood star Arnold Schwarzenegger, who was then governor of California.

For now though he is preparing to host the British Universe championship at Birmingham Symphony Hall in October.

"I'm busier now than I ever have been," he said. "I do around 30 shows a year."

"I'm still training hard and feeling great."



Fit and strong at 77 – boss Jim Charles, of Quarry Bank, outside Jim's Gym in Lye

"It's a great honour to be hosting the championships at the prestigious Symphony Hall and it's something I'm very much looking forward to. It's exciting that it's been brought back to Birmingham."

"I've been very dedicated to the sport and met some great characters over the years. However, Scharzenegger has been the biggest name I have come across in all the years I have been in this business."

Jim said Arnie was only 19-years-old when he first met him but he already saw he was destined for big things.

"When he was governor of California he sent me a gold sealed letter congratulating me on my all of my years in the business," he said.

"I've passed it on to my daughter now as it will be worth a few bob. I knew he would be a star as soon as I saw him and I've met him several times since."

"I always get asked when I'm going to stop training but the sky is the limit as far as I'm concerned."

"I'll keep going until I feel I can't anymore."

Two athletes looking to make strides in bodybuilding are currently training at Jim's Gym.

Bricklayer Dave Reece, aged 47, from Kingswinford, is taking part in the 40s category at a championships at Brierley Hill Civic Hall.

He has also taken 19-year-old Steve Collins under his wing as he prepares for his first big event in November at the Novice Finals and British Youth Championships.

Obese

Dave said: "I trained all the time when I was younger but it's fair to say I'd let myself go. At 39 I was obese."

"The last eight years I've been training really hard and I'm a lot leaner and looking forward to the challenge of the championship next week."

Dave added: "Jim had asked me to take a look at Steve and, for a young lad, he has a lot of potential to do well in this sport."

The National Amateur Body Building Association was formed in 1950 with the first Mr Universe contest won by Steve Reeves, who went on to make more than 30 Hercules movies.

Schwarzenegger is himself a four-time winner and his own legacy is commemorated in the Arnold Classic annual bodybuilding competition.

He went on to star in his own Hercules movie before becoming one of Hollywood's biggest stars, known for the Terminator movies, True Lies, Total Recall, Twins, Predator and many other box office blockbusters.

The late Oscar Heidenstam was appointed Secretary in 1956 and continued to drive the association forward for more than 30 years.

NABBA International was formed during a London meeting in 1984 and became host to the European and World Championships. The international branch is now supported by more than 50 countries.

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Tell young about life in UK before the EU

THERE has never been a time when it was more important for parents and grandparents to impart knowledge, wisdom and guidance to our young.

For too long we, as a nation, have allowed, without protest, successive governments to lead us into the mess we find ourselves in.

We are going to be, mind-numbingly bombarded with information and propaganda that will confuse, frighten and mislead many.

Those of us who were involved in the referendum of 1975 can still remember what it was like to live in a Britain free

from EU legislation and regulation. So we are not afraid of the prospect of living outside of it once again.

Propagandists will try to tell us that being in the EU has kept the peace in Europe.

What they don't tell us is that there is no need to go to war when we are lying down and meekly surrendering our freedoms.

The thing that is so glaringly obvious about the EU is the fact not once has this union managed to balance the books.

Any other organisation that ran

their affairs in this manner would have gone out of business long ago.

Surely this points either to incompetence or corruption?

Who in their right mind would choose to remain tied to such an organisation? The answer to that is the politicians and lawyers who are getting very rich out of it.

The important arguments for Brexit are there for all to see if we do not allow ourselves to be hoodwinked again as we were in 1975.

T CROFT
Wall Heath

Hypocrisy from the Americans

THE United States of America, while still neutral about World War Two in 1941, had a system of lend-lease programmes to those fighting Nazi Germany. Great Britain borrowed billions of pounds from America and our good friends the Canadians - we finally made the last payment of £45.5 million of our debt for freeing Europe in December 2006.

Now, despite spending over 60 years paying off a debt to liberate Europe, Mr Obama thinks that we should continue to pay £55m per day for the privilege of living under the Brussels jackboot instead of the German jackboot.

The hypocrisy is that they still have an American institute for weights and measures. They constantly refuse to adopt the British/European system of metric measurement. The only other countries that have not adopted metric are Myanmar and Liberia.

G E FANTHOM
Swindon

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

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expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and **MUST** include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Future without EU is sweatshop Britain

THOSE dreamers who support an EU exit have completely overlooked a critical issue. Europe is 26 miles away from the UK but Brazil, India, China and Australia are half way around the world. America is 3,000 miles across the Atlantic. Transport costs money and the cost of trading with such partners in terms of exports makes our goods uncompetitive. If it were that easy, why aren't we exporting more goods to them anyway?

It is clear that they would rather buy cheap from sweatshops in Asia. In order to compete with those without trading to Europe, we too would have to become a sweatshop. That is not a scare story, it is a simple fact of business.

The answer to our trade gap with the EU is for us to buy more homemade produce and to make our goods more appealing.

As for Boris Johnson's claim that Mr Obama is being hypocritical and that we should not listen to the voice of America, Boris should remember that he has been a senior member of a government that has embraced all things American from de-regulation to metropolitan mayors and academics.

M CLIFF
Wall Heath

'Selfish and arrogant' attitude

WHAT an amazing view Mark Andrews gave of his selfish, arrogant attitude of his right to park his car on the pavement (In My View, The Chronicle, April 21).

The comparison he gave of no pavement parking in London because of the underground railway is totally irrelevant.

He is obviously oblivious to pedestrians who when trying to navigate around parked vehicles have to go on to the road to pass by.

Perhaps he should think about blind and visually impaired people, together with mothers with children in pushchairs, who have to contend with people like Mark Andrews, who couldn't care less about what pavements are supposed to be used for.

Better still he might like try walking along a pavement with a blindfold over his eyes to see how its like to get around parked vehicles if you can't see.

DAVID EDWARDS
Dudley



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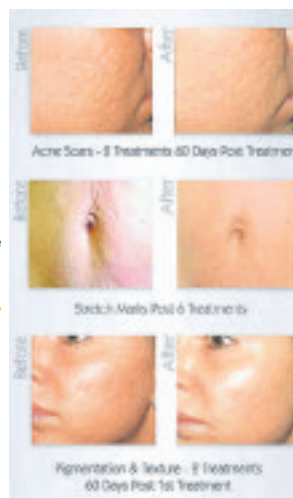
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Lance Corporal Thomas Dunn, another Dudley soldier remembered



The Mayor of Dudley, Councillor Steve Waltho, centre, was at the book launch



Author John Hale started work on his book about Dudley's war dead in 2009



Killed in action - Pte Sydney Bird, one of the soldiers remembered in the book dedicated to the war dead

Book tells stories behind names on the memorial

UP until now, there has not been much known about the soldiers of Dudley who fought in the First World War, apart from their name and possibly their rank.

But thanks to a new book commemorates 720 of the borough's soldiers, we can finally discover the tales behind the names. The most striking story is of the five Ennis brothers - William (b.1888), Samuel (b.1890), John (b.1893), Albert (b.1897) and Samson (b.1898) - with the eldest, William, the only survivor.

All five answered the call to arms, Samuel serving with the South Staffordshire Regiment, while his brothers served in the Worcesters.

The picture of the five appeared in the Midland Chronicle on July 16, 1915. Corporal Samuel Ennis of the 7th South Staffs was the first to be killed, dying of wounds in hospital on October 18, 1915. He recorded details of his enlistment at Wolverhampton Town Hall on August 14, 1914, ten

MEMORY LANE

By David Callaghan

days before Britain declared war, and his training at Lichfield Barracks, Grantham and Frensham before he left from Liverpool on June 30, 1915, bound for Malta.

Galipoli

From there he sailed to Alexandria in Egypt before landing at Gallipoli in Turkey, where he received a bullet wound in his left foot and was later hit by shrapnel in his shoulder, foot and neck in three separate incidents. He has no known grave and his name is recorded on the Hellas Memorial to the fallen of the Gallipoli Campaign.

Former Black Country Society president Roy Peacock, helped author John Hale create the book, and found the story of the Ennis brothers fascinating.

He said: "Together we discovered some remarkable stories, which gave

light to the soldiers as people, rather than them just purely a name."

Albert Ennis, of the Worcestershire Regiment, was the next brother to be killed, on December 12, 1915, and he is buried at Hebuterne Cemetery in France. Lance Corporal John Ennis died on April 25, 1917. He too has no known grave and has his name carved upon the Thiepval Memorial to the missing of the Somme battlefields.

Private Samson Ennis died on August 26, 1917. His body was never recovered and he is commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial in Belgium.

Surviving brother, William, returned home to Dudley where he had six daughters. He is buried in Dudley Cemetery.

At the book launch, Councillor Steve Waltho, Mayor of Dudley, said: "I believe it's extremely important to remember those who fought bravely for freedom." The book, Dudley's 1914-1918 War Memorial and the 720 Men Commemorated, is priced at £10, from the Black Country Society website or email roy.peacock@blueyonder.co.uk



Tragedy - the Ennis Brothers, only one of the five Dudley brothers who enlisted survived the First World War

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Grand day out for baby rhino Ekozu



Ekozu makes a splash on his first day out on the African Reserve at the West Midland Safari Park

A MONTH-OLD white rhino calf has enjoyed his first day out at the West Midland Safari Park, near Kidderminster. Ekozu was shy at first but soon found his feet at the drive-through attraction on the outskirts of Bewdley.

The youngster spent most of the day near his mum, six-year-old Ailsa, running just ahead of her so that she could see him as she grazed.

Ekozu is the first baby rhino to be born at the tourist attraction in the last decade. The last was the baby's dad Barney, who was born in 2005. He makes up the number of rhinos in the herd, called a 'crash', to six.

Deputy Head Keeper of Ungulates, Lisa Watkins, said: "After his first three weeks bonding with mum and getting used to the outdoors in the paddock, it was an exciting day to let Ekozu out into the African Reserve."

"Ailsa has been an exemplary mum, showing Ekozu around the reserve and keeping him safe by her side. White rhinos can communicate vocally and we could hear Ekozu making lots of cute squeaking sounds when he is excited, curious or just calling to mum."

Attempt to curb speed with new flash signs

NEW speed measures have been installed on a busy road near Stourbridge in an attempt to make drivers slow down along the problem stretch.

Speed checks along the A456 at Hagley have shown that more than half of vehicles are travelling above the speed limit.

Two new flashing speed signs have been installed along the 30mph stretch of the Worcester Road.

Councillors and campaigners in Hagley are hopeful that the new measures will make drivers think about their speed.

Reassuring

Peter Rowbottom, who lives in the village, said: "Last year excessive speeding in Hagley became a priority for police to take action on. Speed surveys previously carried out by local authorities had shown that at some points along the A456 over 50 per cent of vehicles were exceeding the legal limit."

"It is reassuring to see police carrying out these speed checks and hopefully the further planned operations will bring about long-

By Richard Guttridge

term reductions in speeding, making the roads in Hagley safer for everyone."

Residents have been doing their best to get their message across, even taking to the streets in high-vis clothing to hold placards reminding drivers to watch their speed.

Hagley Parish Council chairman Steve Coletta said: "We have been waiting for some signs for several years. It will be a welcome addition to remind people how fast they are going."

"I have stood there myself and witnessed them coming through, a good percentage of them are HGVs as well. They come from Birmingham direction, down the hill and accelerate away. If the lights are on green they are hitting their top speed."

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Upset councillors make pledge to help children

It's time to hit the trail



Walking boots on – warming up for the Dudley Trail walk in May are Robert and Rita Bridge at Himley Hall

THE countdown to the 36th annual Dudley borough trail is on with walkers getting their boots out.

Walkers are urged to put their best foot forward and sign up to the popular trail, which is one of the longest running events in Dudley and is held in association with Action Heart and Let's Get Active.

This year's trail will be on Sunday and organisers are hoping to attract more people of all ages to take part. Walks of six, nine, 12, 20 and 28 miles are on offer with routes covering the beauty spots and industrial heritage of the area.

All walks start at Dudley Leisure Centre at designated times between 8am and noon. Checkpoints are placed along each of the five routes to ensure the wellbeing of walkers and light refreshments will be available. Everyone who completes a trail receives a certificate.

It costs £3 per person to join the 28 and 20-mile routes, £2.50 for the 12 and nine-mile routes and £1.50 to walk the more gentle six miles route. An additional fee of 50p will be charged for all entries on the day.

Entry forms are available online at www.dudley.gov.uk/dudleytrail

COUNCILLORS from across the political spectrum have vowed to improve Dudley's children's services.

At the first council meeting since the Ofsted rated the service inadequate, councillors spoke about the challenges facing the department.

Former cabinet member for children's services Councillor Tim Crumpton, who was in charge of the department from 2012 to 2015, said sorry for his role. He added: "It's only right I apologise to children and families who we have not supported as well as we should have done in that period and, in my opinion, since the start of children's services."

The Ofsted report said there were 'serious and widespread failures in the services provided to children and young people who are in need of help and protection and who are looked after in Dudley'.

Meeting

At the meeting on April 11 there was a clear appetite to get the department back on track, with Labour, Conservative and UKIP voices emphasising the need to work together to bring improvements.

Tory Councillor Les Jones said: "We must all hang our heads in shame at the fact we got here but also hold our heads high so that we can fix this. We have to work together and make sure the outcomes for our children are right."

There were calls for more training for councillors and increased scrutiny on decisions of the cabinet member and officers.

UKIP Councillor Dean Perks said: "I felt physically sick when the report was read out to me. We are letting down children. We have to take collective responsibility. We have to scrutinise everything that comes out of our officers' office and every member's decision. We need to learn from the mistakes."

Council leader Councillor Pete Lowe said: "The important thing is we take stock, we learn and then we move forward."

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day for a home-grown extravaganza. BBC Good Food Stage – this newest feature is sponsored by Lakeland and features a combination of celebrity interviews and recipe demos.

Discover and Learn by Lexus – an interactive feature consisting of three themed masterclasses which focus on different areas – cupcake decorating, sushi making and Taste Sensation.

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Guest Adam offers plots to ponder

Clent Gardening Club

THE March meeting was actually held in April as the regular date fell on Good Friday.

The chairman welcomed a healthy turnout of members and guests for a talk by horticulturist Adam Greathead from Stourbridge. Adam introduced himself as the head gardener from Ashwood Nurseries and the chairman of the Wollaston Gardeners Guild.

Adam's talk, 'Duck Pools – A Garden Divided', had members anticipating a talk on garden ponds. But while Adam's garden does indeed contain a small pond the theme was that dividing a garden into different sections can make even a small plot seem much larger.

It centred on his own garden at his home 'Duck Pools' and he gave an entertaining and informative talk on a whole variety of common and rarer plants contained within it. His talk was illuminated with a splendid array of photographs taken in his garden and he even entertained members with some poetry and jokes.

Altogether, this was an excellent talk which culminated with Adam advising that his garden is open to the public for charity in April and July this year and several members expressed an interest in visiting.

Meetings are on the fourth Friday of the month at Clent Village Hall. For details, log onto <https://clentgardeningclub.wordpress.com> or call chairman Martin Grange on 01562 883009 or 07917 184762.

Celebrating Queen's birthday



Sedgley (E) Guild Craft group celebrate the Queen's birthday having afternoon tea with homemade cakes, small sandwiches and tea or Prosecco. An enjoyable afternoon was had by all

Sedgley (E) Guild

True stories you just couldn't make up

Kingswinford TG

Make it Up' and it was very aptly named.

There was lively discussion as many items struck a chord with members or caused angry disbelief.

He was thanked on the club's behalf by Josie Smith.

Forthcoming events were announced including afternoon tea at Himley Hall and the guild's own party to celebrate The Queen's birthday. It was agreed the guild

would send a birthday card to Her Majesty.

The ramblers will go for a Bluebell Walk for their next outing, probably at Saltwells as they are usually very prolific there. The Wednesday Club will be busy with their handicrafts while discussing future plans.

Mavis offered to wash up. Raffle prizes were won by Brenda Greenaway and Margaret Farmer.



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Court puts brakes on highway menace

STREET racers are being warned they could lose their car, their job or even their liberty if they take part in a car cruise in the Black Country.

An injunction is in force banning people from taking part in a car cruise anywhere within the four Black Country boroughs – Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall and Wolverhampton – or from promoting, organising or publicising such an event.

The injunction defines car cruising as the act of drivers meeting on the public highway on an organised or impromptu basis to race or show off in their cars, and anyone breaching it risks being in contempt of court, for which they could face up to two years in prison and a fine.

To date, 11 people have been convicted of breaching the injunction and have received suspended prison sentences and ordered to pay costs.

Police can also take action against individuals for traffic offences including driving without due care and attention, driving without insurance – no insurance policy covers illegal street racing – or driving an unroadworthy vehicle.

The injunction was introduced last year to tackle the menace of car cruising, which was blighting the lives of residents and having a detrimental impact on businesses throughout the region. And it has had an instant impact, with police and councils reporting a significant reduction in car cruising across the Black Country, and the problem being eliminated altogether in many areas. The injunction prohibits a number of activities and



The injunction also prohibits car cruise gatherings like this, in a supermarket car park



CCTV footage captured car cruising taking place

consequences typically associated with car cruising, including speeding, racing or driving in convoy, performing stunts, obstructing the highway, excessive noise, and causing the risk of harm to people or property.

Chief Inspector Jed White from West Midlands Police's Motorway Policing unit said: "Street racing is completely unacceptable and we will not tolerate it."

"People who think about taking part in a car cruise – whether as a driver, passenger or even spectator – should be very clear about the likely consequences."

"The same applies to people who either organise a car cruise or actively promote it."

"Anyone who is convicted of contempt of court by breaching the injunction could face jail or be hit with a large fine."

"At the same time, by committing traffic offences they could be banned from driving or have their car seized."

The four Black Country councils and West Midlands Police secured the ground-breaking injunction after receiving hundreds of complaints about car cruising from residents and businesses over a number of years.

They ranged from complaints about dangerous driving, speeding and vehicles and spectators obstructing highways or residential or business properties, to excessive

noise, littering, verbal abuse and intimidation.

There has been a significant reduction in car cruising activity across the Black Country since the injunction came into force, and Chief Insp White added: "The injunction enables us, together with our partners, to continue to tackle those individuals who flout the laws of the road and pose a danger for innocent members of the public."

● For more information about the injunction, please visit <http://bit.ly/carcrusingban>. Incidents of car cruising should be reported to West Midlands Police on 101. In an emergency, always dial 999.



Ground-breaking – car cruising is banned in the Black Country

Injunction details

1 It is forbidden for anyone to participate in "car cruising" (as defined in the schedule below) anywhere within the claimants' combined geographical area known locally as the Black Country Area.

2 It is also forbidden for anyone to promote, organise, or publicise via e-mail, the internet or any publication or broadcast, any "car cruising" within the defined geographical area.

3 A power of arrest pursuant to section 27 Police and Criminal Justice Act 2006 shall apply to clause 1 above.

4 The order and power of arrest shall continue for 3 years following the commencement of this order or until it is varied or discharged by the court. This order shall come into effect at midnight on 2 February 2015 provided that the Claimants have completed certain steps. It shall, subject to further order, expire at midnight 1 February 2018.

5 Personal service of this injunction is dispensed with pursuant to rule 81.8 of the Civil Procedure Rules.

Schedule

1 "Car Cruising" means two or more motor vehicles (including motorbikes) between the hours of 3pm and 7am being on a highway or in a publicly accessible place within the Black Country Area at which any such vehicle or occupant of a vehicle performs any of the prohibited activities listed in clause 3 below which causes, or is capable of causing, any of the prohibited consequences set out in clause 4 below.

2 "Participating in car cruising" means being the driver of, or being carried in (or on), a motor vehicle (including motorbikes) in circumstances in which paragraph 1 above applies.

3 The prohibited activities referred to in clause 1 above are: speeding; driving in convoy; racing; performing stunts; sounding horns/playing music as to cause a significant public nuisance; using foul or abusive language; using threatening, intimidating behaviour towards another person; and causing obstruction on a public highway, whether moving or stationary.

4 The prohibited consequences referred to in clause 1 above are: excessive noise; danger or risk of injury to road users (including pedestrians); damage or significant risk of damage to property; significant risk of harm; significant public nuisance; and significant annoyance to the public.

● The full injunction and map showing the geographical area is available at <http://bit.ly/carcrusingban> and council offices.

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Walsall Council



Now's a grape time to produce English wines

IT used to be considered a novelty, but British wine sales are booming. Sales of English wine have increased by more than a fifth as consumers realise the quality of local vineyards and choose to buy British. Sales at Waitrose have increased by 22 per cent at the start of this year on top of an 80 per cent year-on-year rise that was reported in December, making it the fastest growing drinks range.

That is great news for Halfpenny Green Vineyards, near Dudley, where marketing assistant Ben Godbehere said: "We are seeing a 20 per cent rise in sales, so that figure sounds about right."

"Over the past few years, we have seen a huge rise in sales of our wine, particularly our most popular, a sparkling rose, which costs about £19.95.

"I think an element of the rise in popularity of UK wines is down to the warmer summer temperatures we have been having in the UK in recent years."

Waitrose has recognised the quality of wines at Halfpenny Green, Bobbington. It will soon start selling its Halfpenny Green Tom Hill 2014 in stores and online, as well as at its John Lewis Food Hall on Oxford Street in London.

Head winemaker Clive Vickers said: "Our Long Acre 2014 dry white has featured in local M&S stores and online exclusively for the past year, and in addition, our Rose Sparkling 2013 and Mercia 2014 have just been added to the range."

"We are smaller producers here in England but we can produce award-winning wine," he added.



Halfpenny Green Vineyard owner Clive Vickers checks the grapes used to make red wine near Bobbington

Road race collision driver is locked up

AN MOT tester who left a woman with serious injuries after racing a fellow Mercedes driver at 90 mph along the Birmingham New Road has been put behind bars for nearly three years.

Vaqaas Khan, aged 30, was goaded into the race by his opponent near the Birchley Island, Oldbury, shortly after midnight on September 21, 2014. He had reached a speed of 90mph in his Mercedes-AMG in a bid to catch his rival who suddenly switched lanes at the junction of Titford Road to avoid a car attempting to join the road.

Prosecuting Siobhan Collins said Khan was travelling too fast to react and smashed into the Audi A3 being driven by Gurpreet Goroya, then aged 25.

The engine from the Audi was ripped from the car and sent flying 100 metres down the road, near to Asda.

Khan's Mercedes – also occupied by his two brothers and brother-in-law – burst into flames.



Vaqaas Khan: road race

early signs of arthritis. She has been told she will need a hip replacement in the next ten years.

"She can't walk long distances and she panics if she has to go in a car."

"She is also unable to work."

Appearing at Wolverhampton Crown Court for sentencing, Khan, of Lea Road, Penn Fields, Wolverhampton, was jailed for two years and seven months.

He was banned from driving for three-and-a-half years having previously admitting causing serious injury by dangerous driving.

Gurdeep Garcha, defending, described the incident as a 'serious lapse in judgement' by his client.

He said: "My client is a married man of good character which makes what he did all the more unfathomable."

He added: "He had previously been a law-abiding man. What he did was out of character and a serious lapse in judgement which, of course, had serious consequences."

The driver of the other Mercedes has never been identified.

Miss Goroya's injuries were so severe a passer-by who went to help thought she was dead, said Miss Collins.

The former beauty therapist from London had to be cut from her car and at hospital spent four days in a medically induced coma after the horrific accident, the court was told.

The injuries that she suffered in the crash included a collapsed lung, bleeding in her kidney, a fractured pelvis and broken bones in her arms and legs.

Miss Collins, said: "This has affected her self-esteem. She had needed metal plates in her body which have taken their toll."

"She is now also showing

More diagnosed with TB

THE number of people diagnosed with tuberculosis in the Black Country and Staffordshire has doubled, new figures have revealed.

There have been 35 suspected cases of the disease in the area during the first three months of the year – more than double the same period in 2015 when there were 17. The number of patients diagnosed with TB in Dudley was six.

Online dealer fined for selling unsafe car

A ROGUE car dealer from Dudley who sold a Mazda MX5 found to be unsafe for the road has been ordered to pay out more than £3,000 at court.

Umar Ijaz, 36, of St Michael's Grove, pleaded guilty to supplying a vehicle in an unroadworthy condition and to two offences relating to professional diligence and a misleading description.

In the case, brought by Dudley Trading Standards Ijaz – trading as Lexuschap on Ebay – sold a Mazda MX5 to an unsuspecting buyer for £700. Six days after the car was bought, it broke down and was taken to a garage where it was found not safe to drive. The buyer complained to trading standards after unsuccessfully trying to get a refund from Ijaz.

An expert inspected the car and found several faults including severe corrosion of the metal on which the seat belts were anchored and a defective handbrake. There was evidence the vehicle had been involved in a previous head-on crash.

Ijaz was fined £1,050, ordered to pay £640 compensation and £1,300 costs, as well as a £40 victim surcharge.



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Ali's UB40 mission

GETTING the opportunity to interview one of the biggest names in reggae music was always going to be interesting, heightened only by the fact that our subject for the afternoon is one of Birmingham's very own.

Not only is Ali Campbell still singing his former band's hits (we say former – it's complicated, as we'll explain), but he's also embroiled in a High Court battle with his brothers Robin and Duncan. It's like a reggae soap opera.

Having initially devised the idea for a band standing at a bus stop, Ali Campbell now finds himself sitting on top of a legacy of sales figures that push well past the 100 million mark, and a couple of UK number ones to boot. But now in 2016, having left the band in 2008, the climate that Ali finds himself in is much different.

As the vocalist for reggae stars UB40, Ali was part of the sound and face of a band that dominated the 80s and became a voice for the voiceless with their rebel music around the world. But the rights to the band's name are not his – they belong to his brothers, who still tour under the UB40 name. We told you it was complicated.

Now he's in the differently branded UB40 featuring Ali Campbell, Astro and Mickey Virtue. It's a sore subject, one that has taken Ali through the courts. He's not quiet about it either.

Positive

But first, we want to know what the second city's reggae son has been up to during his years away from the 'old' UB40.

"We've just come back from New Zealand actually, and it was one of the best tours we've ever done," Ali explains, the pleasure notable in his voice. "A couple of years ago, I got the idea to do a Red Red Wine vineyard tour, where we play a selection of vineyards around a country. I thought it was a funny pun and the promoters love a gag to hang a tour on, so we finally got it together and played seven different vineyards around New Zealand. They were all in beautiful locations. We've been to the Hawaiian Islands as well, and it really doesn't get much better than that."



Ali Campbell, who says he is trying to save the legacy of UB40, pictured left, with band mates Astro and keyboard player Mickey Virtue

We shake the images of lounging on a beach out of our heads, and quiz Ali about his band's upcoming UK tour. There is a date in Birmingham on Sunday, May 1, at the Barclaycard Arena. Are they looking forward to hitting the road again?

"Well we haven't really been off the road yet! Since Astro came back we've been solidly on the road for two and a half years. We've been selling out gigs all over New Zealand and Hawaii and then we've come home and found out we've more or less sold out these arena shows back in the UK! We're really chuffed."

Ali, trumpeter Astro and keyboardist Mickey Virtue all hail from Birmingham, and the city still holds a special place in their heart.

Ali said: "I can't wait to play in Brum again, the last time we played there was at the NIA and the love from the audience was wicked, truly incredible. Me and Astro were quite shocked, the place was bouncing like a tub filled with grasshoppers and the noise we got from the crowd was lovely, it really was. Especially after the big fight that I've had on my hands."

The fight, he tells us, has been with the 'other' UB40. Though his voice is warm when he reminisces about his time in the city, it is

less so when he talks about the other band touring under the UB40 brand.

"The dark side as I like to call them, all they've done is successfully split our fan base in half. For a while there was a lot of confusion and people didn't know what was going on. But since Astro joined me and we started doing all the old UB40 songs and stuff, it's been brilliant. It couldn't have gone any better really."

He's talking about his old bandmates who, fronted by his brother Duncan, have gone on to use the UB40 name on their tours.

The two bands have been embroiled in a battle over naming rights for years and were in the High Court only weeks ago.

Ali's brothers, plus James Brown, Norman Hassan, Brian Travers and Earl Falconer insist that Ali's band has no right to use the UB40 name in any form. They want an injunction and damages against Ali and his bandmates.

The court has now reserved its decision on the case and will give its ruling at a later date. "The thing is, I wasn't calling myself UB40 until Astro came and re-joined me in 2008," said Ali. "Before then I didn't feel as though I had the right to call myself UB40, but with Astro and later Mickey we had three original members. I felt as though I had to save the leg-

acy of the band because what the dark side are doing is destroying it."

They're strong words flowing from the mouth of a man who certainly seems to have a bitter dislike towards his former band, and at times it makes for uncomfortable listening.

Identity

But his reasoning shows that his strong views aren't just the by-product of a tit-for-tat argument, but are woven into a strong sense of identity, and what he thinks UB40 should be.

"I don't know if you've seen any of their shows, but they're knuckle-bitingly embarrassing. And I've been watching those shows and listened to their 'country' album, and when Astro came over I thought sod it, I'm going to try and save the legacy of UB40. It was my band, and one of the biggest reggae bands in the world, and the dark side are doing country music."

"It felt like a slap in the face both to me and the fans."

Because of this, Ali felt like it was important to carry on performing the tunes that elevated the band to legendary status, but on his own terms.

"I've never, ever gone out on tour with-

out letting people know which UB40 we are. That's why we always say featuring Ali, Astro and Mickey. Which is something that the other band don't do – they don't let fans know that it isn't the original line-up."

The issue of confusing the two different bands reached a fever pitch in April 2014 when both were booked to play different venues in Dubai on the same day. Ali made the swift decision to change the name of his band to UB40 Reunited, to both avoid confusion and the potential legal action that would follow. But ever since, he's been glad to distance himself from his old band.

"They're the ones that are confusing everybody, we don't want to be mistaken for them. Because they're so bad."

We place ourselves into the shoes of a UB40 mega-fan, and imagine with a twinge of sadness what it must be like to see the rift that has grown between Ali and his former bandmates. What would Ali say to fans that couldn't decide on which version to go and see?

"Us squabbling means nothing, it's all about the music. I think fans can make up their own minds. They can listen to my album, 2014's Silhouette, and the dark side's album 2013's Getting Over The Storm and they can make a choice in that respect."

"But also with the live stuff, they can come and see me and Astro who are the original singers, or Duncan, Ali's brother, who replaced Ali when he left the band and whoever else."

We wonder about the time when Ali left originally, and how he must have felt. Being one of the founder members, we imagine leaving your own musical baby in the hands of others would be an upsetting experience, and so too the prospect of performing solo.

Ali tells us more: "Of course I was nervous, I was leaving my own band. I paid for the instruments when we first got together and in 2008 I felt that I was forced into leaving."

But he added: "The other band are playing pubs whilst we're touring around the world, selling out shows and smashing it."

UB40 Featuring Ali Campbell, Astro and Mickey will be playing at the Barclaycard Arena on Sunday, May 1. Visit www.theticketfactory.com or call 0844 33 88 222.

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Knockout sounds by Boxer Rebellion

ALBUMS

By Leon Burakowski

LONDON band **The Boxer Rebellion** have been around since 2001, paying their dues, and now album number five, **Ocean By Ocean**, should pay some dividends.

It's the absolute epitome of mature, meditative, mellow rock which can appeal to fans of Coldplay, Keane, Editors and The Script.

American frontman Nathan Nicholson's vocals, which rise to a falsetto, perfectly match emotional songs that have been well-crafted. Highlights include *Firework*, *Keep Me Close* and *Redemption*.

You can catch them in concert on Thursday, May 5, at the Hare & Hounds in Kings Heath, Birmingham, a very intimate venue for a band that could (and probably should) be playing stadia.

Mancunian trio **Man Made**, fronted by Nile Marr (son of former Smiths guitarist Johnny), make a decent if underwhelming debut with **TV Broke My Brain**.

It's jangly and shuffles along nicely. Nile is a decent singer and from live accounts more of a showman than his dad. It all smoulders nicely, especially recent single *Raining In My Head* and *You Never Know How It Feels*, without ever really igniting.

Winners of the Glastonbury Festival's Emerging Talent contest, **She Drew The Gun** are a Merseyside outfit fronted by singer-songwriter Louisa Roach.

Their debut album produced by The Coral's James Skelly, **Memories of the Future**, finds them adept at a moody, languid style of psych rock, with Roach at some point between Lana Del Rey and Polly Harvey.



The Boxer Rebellion – Ocean By Ocean is mature, meditative, mellow rock

Key tracks include pounding rocker *Pit Pony* and the Portishead-like *What Will You Do* and the angry *Poem*.

You can catch them locally before they play Glastonbury with a gig at Birmingham city centre's Sunflower Lounge on Saturday.

Misty Miller is a 21-year-old force of nature, a riot girl whose feisty debut **The Whole Family Is Worried** is raw yet melodic rock that's well worth checking out if you like such as Wolf Alice and/or Florence + The Machine.

Accessible

Drawing upon the likes of Courtney Love and Chrissie Hynde, Miller's autobiographical songs draw on classic hard rock with a punky snarl on songs such as *Happy*, *Stars* and latest single *Girlfriend*, whilst *Devil* is almost a folk ballad.

Surgeon art rockers from New York, **Yeasayer**, are surprisingly accessible on their new album **Amen & Goodbye** an enjoyable blend of styles on songs with all sorts of esoteric subject matter.

Highlights include *I Am Chemistry* featuring folk singer Suzzie Roche and

the Afro pop influenced *Silly Me*. File Yeasayer's album next works by Mercury Rev and MGMT.

Various artists album **Just Great Songs 2016**, which pulls together 40 hits from over the past 12 months, is positive proof that clubland floor fodder and R&B-lite has pretty much taken over the chart.

There are several perfectly fine pop songs, such as Justin Bieber's *Love Yourself* and One Direction's *History*, and Elle King's retro *Ex's & Oh's* (appropriate apostrophe lesson required).

But there is too much beat-driven blandness with singers who sound

liked they've been autotuned. Even the usually reliable Paloma Faith, Olly Murs and Laura Mvula are represented by their lesser songs.

I reckon only two of these tracks will still be getting airplay in ten years' time, Hozier's *Take Me To Church* and George Ezra with *Blame It On Me*.

As a snapshot of pop in 2016, *Just Mediocre* may have been a more accurate title.

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Plea for help after raiders target charity

THIEVES have stolen thousands of pounds of equipment and ransacked offices in a spate of burglaries at a charity base in Kingswinford.

Good News Recycling, which helps ex-offenders get back on track, was first targeted by thieves in early March but has been hit again on five separate occasions since.

The raiders had forced their way inside after cutting padlocks off the gate, smashing a window at the rear of the building and even climbing through the toilet roof.

Several flat screen televisions, £250 petty cash and personal belongings have been taken along with the offices and washing machines destroyed.

The further raids took place between March 12 to 29, following the first break-in on March 6 where £15,000 worth of equipment was taken.

Steve Tracey, who set up the business six years ago, said they are now appealing to members of the public for support and volunteering.

Mr Tracey, aged 48, explained: "Perhaps they came the first time and thought they would try their luck again."

"It's absolute stupidity and these thieves should realise that they are

only robbing the poor of our work and goods.

"They have ransacked the offices and taken sentimental items belonging to me.

"Although we managed to get up and running following the first incident we have had to get security on site in an attempt to stop these series of crimes.

"Following the first article in the Express and Star we had generous donations from members of the public. But we still need help.

Tools

"We set up a work programme to go out with Age Concern during the summer months but since they stole out tools so we couldn't do that.

"Even if we could get local businesses to sponsor us it would mean so much."

The charity is linked with Dudley Police's Offender Management Team so former offenders can use their skills to renovate furniture that can then be sold to help vulnerable people.

To donate call Good News Recycling on (01384) 400596 or 07708830576 or visit their Facebook page.



Staff member Josh Hotchkiss with damage caused during a recent break-in at Good News Recycling

Motorist in 80mph police chase jailed

A MOTORIST had been jailed after leading police on a 12-mile chase through the Black Country in broad daylight at speeds reaching 80mph has been jailed.

For 20 minutes, Abdul Rashid carried out 'a litany of dangerous driving manoeuvres' including overtaking on blind corners, driving on the wrong side of the road and causing two collisions.

Mr William Dudley, prosecuting, said that police officers in Lye began following Rashid's Volkswagen Golf at 10.45am on May 22 last year, believing it to be involved in the transportation of drugs.

Three unmarked police cars tried to stop his vehicle in a 'boxing in' manoeuvre but he broke free and drove off.

Mr Dudley said: "What ensued was 20 minutes worth of dangerous driving, covering a distance of 10 to 12 miles at significantly excessive speeds."

Swerve

Rashid, a father of four who runs a wholesale business, notched up at least 60mph on 30mph streets, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard. He collided with one car in Cradley and caused another driver in Amblecote Road to swerve, leading a collision with another vehicle.

Rashid abandoned his car and fled, along with a passenger, but both were tracked by the force helicopter.

Rashid told police he had 'panicked' when the unmarked police cars boxed him in, thinking he was going to be robbed.

Defending Rashid, Mr Duncan Craig said the passenger had told Rashid that he was carrying drugs 'which led to the course of driving we have seen.'

Rashid, 36, of Barrett Street, Smethwick, pleaded guilty to dangerous driving. He was jailed for 12 months and disqualified from driving for four years.

Gala charity dinner is to honour footballer

FOOTBALLING legends will descend on the Black Country for a gala dinner to celebrate the life of Busby Babe Duncan Edwards on what would have been his 80th birthday.

The event on October 1 will be a tribute to the Manchester United and England legend, who grew up on Dudley's Priory estate. Duncan, who was born in 1936, first honed his skills in Priory Park and became the youngest England international until Michael Owen.

But his life was tragically cut short when he died, aged 21, on February 21, 1958, of his injuries 13 days after the Munich Air Disaster which claimed the lives of several of his team mates in the legendary 'Busby Babes' Manchester United team.

Now his football achievements and the anniversary of his birth will be marked at the gala event at Brierley Hill Civic Hall.

The driving force behind the plans is historian and film-maker Rose Cook, who produced a film about the gifted player 20 years ago after seeing his grave at Dudley Cemetery covered with flowers and scarves from adoring fans.

Inspired

It inspired her to find out more about the player and since then she has given many talks about his life and career.

Ahead of the gala dinner, she will be making a new film which will be screened on the night.

Rose said: "Researching and telling the story of Duncan's life has been a labour of love for me for nearly a quarter of a century."

"I'm a Dudley girl, born not far from where Duncan was born in the Woodside area before he moved to the Priory Estate. I have got to know his family very well."

"It is a huge honour to be able to talk about Duncan and to keep his memory alive. I give talks about Duncan Edwards on cruise ships and it is amazing that

£1.8k is raised for cancer care

A KIND-HEARTED Netherton man raised £1,800 in aid of Russells Hall Hospital's cancer unit in memory of two relatives who died in the same month.

Carl Bottley lost his father, Edwin, and mother-in-law, Alice Millington, both aged 80, to forms of blood cancer within a matter of weeks in January.

Mr Bottley, aged 48, decided to organise a charity event in aid of the Georgina Ward. Held at Netherton Sports and Social Club, the entertainment, auction of football memorabilia and sale of raffle tickets raised the sum.

He said: "The Georgina Ward was wonderful in looking after my dad and mother-in-law in their final days. I knew straight away after their deaths that I wanted to give something back as a thank you for all their hard work."

Storage help theatre plea

A THEATRE group in Dudley has appealed for help to find a permanent base for its equipment.

Dudley Little Theatre has been forced to use corners of garages since losing its latest storage space in Netherton Arts Centre.

The theatre company, based at Netherton since 1947, has now run out of options.

To help, contact theatre chairman Rebecca Cleo on 01902 566077 or 07954 424555.

Flag will be a memorial

PLANS to erect a 20ft high flagpole in the centre of Netherton in memory of a community stalwart are set to go ahead.

The towering pole is proposed for a spot next to the Titanic Anchor and has been recommended for approval by Dudley Council planners.

The scheme is in memory of Ivor Lucas, of the Friends of Netherton Park and the Netherton Regeneration Group, who died in September 2014.

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Eleven boy racers charged after car cruiser crackdown

ELEVEN boy racers have been charged since a Black Country-wide injunction was introduced to end the menace of car cruising just over a year ago.

Police say the number of car cruising incidents has fallen sharply since the ground-breaking ban across four boroughs was brought in, and predict that the trend will continue.

Seven culprits were caught earlier this month alone, while the first to fall foul of the ban was sentenced in August.

Ex-butcher is running a slimming club

A RETIRED butcher from Stourbridge who lost four stone in 20 weeks is today (Thursday) starting his own slimming group.

Terry Piggot joined Slimming World in Hagley because he was concerned that his weight was having a detrimental impact on his health, as arthritis and high blood pressure left him taking 22 tablets a day.

After being encouraged by his wife Ann to slim, Terry was surprised by how the weight loss improved his health and general well being.

"I'm delighted, small changes to the way I eat, shop and cook have made such a big difference so quickly. It's changed my life," he said. "I really want to help other people feel as good as I do. I have decided to come out of retirement and open my own Slimming World group."

Terry's group will meet tonight at 5.30 and 7.30pm at Hagley Primary School in Park Road. For further information call 07807028308.

The restriction, covering roads across Wolverhampton, Sandwell, Dudley and Walsall, was brought into force in February last year, preventing people from promoting, organising or publicising a car cruise, as well as taking part in one. It was brought in after a rise in groups congregating at hotspots in the Black Country to race each other.

Contempt

The 11 racers have been convicted of contempt of court, and further prosecutions are pending, say police.

Police warn that offenders could face up to two years in prison or a large fine.

The injunction, introduced in February 2015, defines car cruising as the act of drivers meeting on the public highway on an organised or impromptu basis to race or show off in their cars.

The four Black Country councils and West Midlands Police secured the injunction after receiving hundreds of complaints about car cruising.

Chief Inspector Jed White from West Midlands Police's motorway policing unit, said car cruising had blighted the lives of residents and had a detrimental impact on businesses.

"The injunction enables us to continue to tackle those individuals who flout the laws of the road and pose a danger," he added.

Point North offices turned flats unveiled



Mayor of Dudley Councillor Steve Waltho, centre, officially opens the multi-million pound Point North apartment complex

A MULTI-MILLION scheme to convert the former Point North office block in Brierley Hill into apartments has been completed following months of work.

The apartments should breathe life into The Waterfront after a number of businesses, clubs and bars closed, which has left 40 per cent of the site vacant.

The Landmark, which it is now called, has 181 luxury apartments and could have up to 300 people living inside.

Further long-term plans include creating 66,00 sq ft of new business space at the site. Phase one will focus on filling the existing vacant premises on The Waterfront by 2021.

Birmingham contractor Colmore Tang Construction topped out four of its key construction sites across the West Midlands in one day earlier this month, including office-to-residential conversion projects at The Waterfront, Birmingham city centre, Worcester and the newly-opened Park Regis Hotel in Birmingham.

Dudley Mayor Councillor Steve Waltho at the event said: "It is a spectacular development to have been created in Dudley. The views from the block are remarkable and I was really impressed with how modern the builds were. I was told that the majority of the 181 had already been pre-sold within three months on the market. Its future is looking bright."

Wolves legend Steve Bull has bought one of the six penthouse apartments, priced £124,950, with views over the canal toward Merry Hill.

Black Country hotspot for fuel thefts

THIEVES have driven off from petrol stations in the Black Country without paying for fuel more than 5,100 times in the past two years, new figures reveal.

Sandwell Police reported the highest number of thefts between January 2013 and April this year.

The borough was closely followed Walsall and Dudley with Wolverhampton recording the lowest number of thefts – known as bilking – during the time period, according to the figures released through a Freedom of Information request.

There was a total of 5,186 fuel thefts reported in the Black Country, which works out as an average of around 126 a month.

It has been estimated that across the country the crime is costing retailers around £30 million a year.

There were a total of 13,970 thefts across the West Midlands Police force area between January 2013 and the start of April this year. Of these 2,088 were in Sandwell, 1,052 in Dudley, 1,060 in Walsall and 986 in Wolverhampton. During the same time period, there were 5,685 thefts at petrol stations across Birmingham.

Thieves have used stolen registration plates on cars to avoid being caught after driving off without paying for fuel. Police have issued anti-theft number plate screws.

Supermarket is to donate surplus food

SAINSBURY'S supermarket at Merry Hill has joined up with Dudley Salvation Army to donate food to charities.

The scheme is aimed at charities and organisations that could benefit from receiving surplus fresh food that would otherwise go to waste.

The Merry Hill store also has a donation drop-off point at the front of the store for customers to donate any well dated, long life ambient food to the charity.

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THURSDAY
NEW CONSULTANT
Hagley
Hagley Primary School
Park Road
5.30pm and 7.30pm
Terry 07807 028308

MONDAY
Birmingham
Bartley Green Social Club
Field Lane
10am
Hayley 07886 130936
Bartley Green Sailing Club
110 Genners Lane
5pm & 7pm
Hayley 07886 130936
Bartley Green Sailing Club
110 Genners Lane
5pm & 7pm
Hayley 07886 130936

Norton
The Scout Hut
Kempton Way
Off Heath Farm Road
9.30am
Marie 01384 893001

TUESDAY
Hasbury
Christian Fellowship
Albert Road
9.30am and 11.30am
Michaela 07901 583236
Halesowen
Lutley Community Centre
Brook Willow Road
5.30pm and 7.30pm
Michaela 07901 583236

Pedmore
Hobgreen Primary School
Hobgreen Road, Pedmore
5.30pm and 7.30pm
Paula 07846 847068
Norton
Gig Mill Primary School
The Broadway
7pm
Tel: kelly 07857 244854
Wollaston
St James C of E Primary School
Kingsway 7pm
Tel Jo : 07725 987340
Norton
The Scout Hut
Kempton Way off Heath Farm Road 9.30am
Tel Caroline : 01562 888315
Amblecote
Peters Hill Primary School
Peters Hill Road 6pm and 7.30pm
Tel Lynne : 01384 455427
Bromley / Kingswinford
Dingle Community Centre
Madeley Road 5 pm & 7 pm
Tel Diane : 07974 657589

WEDNESDAY
New Group
Pedmore
Hobgreen Primary School
Hobgreen Road, Pedmore
5.30pm
Paula 07846 847068
New Morning Group
Old Hill
Holy Trinity Church
Halesowen Road
9.15am
Sarah 07815 071982
Old Hill
Holy Trinity Church
Halesowen Road
5.30pm and 7.30pm
Sarah 07815 071982

Kingswinford
British Legion
Summerhill Road 3.30pm
5pm and 6.30pm
Tel Ann : 07787 186259
Amblecote
Amblecote Primary School
School Drive 5.30pm and 7.15pm
Tel Caroline : 01562 888315
Stourbridge / Oldswinford
St Marys Church Hall
Rectory Road
4pm 5.30pm and 7.30pm
Tel Kerry : 01384 833812
Brierley Hill
Withymoore Primary School
Gayfield Avenue 7pm
Tel Lynne : 01384 455427

THURSDAY
Cradley Heath
Liberal Club
Upper High Street
9.30am
Kim 07882 726067
Cradley Heath
Liberal Club
Upper High Street
5pm and 7pm
Kim 07882 726067
Stourbridge
Greenfield Primary School
Hill Street
Stourbridge
5.30pm and 7.30pm
Marie 01384 893001
Hagley
West One
159 Worcester Road
9.30am
Charlotte 07565 659357
Pensnett
Community Centre, High Street
4pm and 6pm
Tel: Gill 01384 830929

Brierley Hill
Nine Locks Community Centre
Hill Street 9.15am
Tel Jill : 01384 830929
Stourbridge
Greenfield Primary School
Hill Street 5.30pm and 7.30pm
Tel Marie : 01384 893001
Cradley
Netherend Neighbourhood Centre
Mogul Lane
Cradley
5.15pm & 7.15pm
Amanda 07862 274058
FRIDAY
Halesowen
Cornbow Hall
10 Hagley Street
Halesowen
8am & 10am
Charlotte 07565 659357
Stourbridge
The Bonded Warehouse
Canal Street 9.30am
Tel Jo: 07725 987340
SATURDAY
New Venue
Halesowen
The Scout Centre
Elizabeth Road
8.30am, 10.30am
and 12.30pm
Kerry 07508 838158
Cradley
Netherend Neighbourhood Centre
Mogul Lane
Cradley
8.45am & 10.45am
Amanda 07862 274058
Hawbush / Brierley Hill
Oakfield Community Centre
Brettell Lane 7.30am, 9.30am
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Tile Choice prides itself on its excellent service and quality products

Expert training of staff is the key to success



These tiles create a monochrome look in the kitchen



TILE Choice is celebrating its 25th anniversary in business this year.

Established in 1991, Tile Choice quickly established an excellent reputation and impressive customer base, which saw the business expand rapidly across the local area and beyond.

Now boasting an impressive 16 individually designed stores throughout the West and East Midlands areas, the business continues to go from strength to strength.

Marketing director, Lee Rudkin said: "We pride ourselves on the excellent service and quality products we offer our customers. Every member of the Tile Choice team is expertly trained and able to help customers find the right products for them, as well as giving practical advice on how to plan and measure a room for tiling."

And it's this emphasis on staff training that really sets the company aside from the competition.

Mr Rudkin added: "The key to customer satisfaction is ensuring that our staff are trained in all aspects of the tile industry, so

Tile Choice is the largest independent tile retailer in the country and is well known for its industry-leading service, products and designs. Here is the firm's story, in its own words, of its rise to success.

that they can properly advise the customer and meet their needs."

The company even employs mystery shoppers to visit their stores a couple of times a month to ensure that standards remain as high as possible.

Quality runs throughout the company and that's why clients can rest assured that they're buying excellent products, even though the prices are kept impressively low.

Latest

"We buy direct from leading manufacturers and because we buy in massive quantities we're able to keep prices low for our customers."

Tile Choice hold over £5million pounds worth of stock at their centralised 30,000 square foot warehouse and distribution centre.

"Clients can rest assured that we will never run out of stock and that we always have the most up-to-date choice of products."

The business work hard to stay ahead when it comes to trends and always ensure that their showrooms are packed with the latest designs.

Mr Rudkin said: "Porcelain wood-effect tiles are really popular at the moment as well as vintage-looking tiles with Victorian-inspired designs."

And the company's extensive and diverse ranges meet the needs of both domestic clients and the trade alike.

Tile Choice stock an extensive range of tools and tiling accessories, including well-known branded products, plus its own-brand adhesive tubs and bags, making a tiling job easy.

"We offer practical advice for those tiling themselves, but can also recommend local trusted trades who can complete the job if you prefer."

Customer orders are quickly dealt with via the company's warehouse, which offers support to stores, allowing customer orders to be picked out on the same-day and dispatched quickly nationwide.

"We have our own vehicle fleet to service stores on a daily basis, along with a customer delivery service that's available via every store."

The company's high standards have even been officially recognised in the industry.

"We have won awards three out of



A luxury modern look for a bathroom



These tiles give a dramatic look in the kitchen

four years running at The Tile Association (TTA) awards, which is an excellent accolade in the industry."

Tile Choice also work closely with their local community, helping to raise money for charity and sponsoring Wolverhampton Rugby Club and Walsall Football Club.

"Giving something back to the local community is really important to us, we get involved with a lot of charity events and sponsor our local teams."

The business was even on hand to help out several local families who appeared on BBC's hit show DIY SOS, where they supplied tiles so that their home renovations could be completed by the show.

So, if you are looking for an up-to-the-minute design for your kitchen, bathroom or ensuite; a traditional style or contemporary design for your lounge, hallway or conservatory, Tile Choice will meet your every requirement at exceptional prices and with a bank holiday sale this weekend every tile has 50 per cent off until Monday May 2.

Visit www.tilechoice.co.uk to find your nearest store or freephone 0800 1560 560.

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See Page 25



Father Ken

New show – Page 25



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Bad Jews



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New Alex Theatre, B'ham
Joshua Harmon's hard-hitting and provocative New York comedy looks at the squabble between the young members of a Jewish-American family over who should inherit a family heirloom.
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Bryan Adams



Saturday, 6pm
Genting Arena, NEC, B'ham
The multi-platinum selling Canadian rocker (and acclaimed photographer) brings The Get Up Tour to Brum following the release of his 13th album, which was produced by Jeff Lynne.
Visit www.gentingarena.co.uk

Noel Gallagher's High Flying Birds



Friday, 6pm
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Expect songs from latest album Chasing Yesterday and the self-titled debut, plus several Oasis favourites from the surly rock genius. Welsh mavericks Super Furry Animals support.
Visit www.gentingarena.co.uk

ROCK & POP

The Bluetones
Tue at 7pm - 11pm, £21
The Institute, Digbeth, Birmingham, B5 6DY.
Call 0121 643 0428

Showaddywaddy
Tonight at 7.30pm,
Palace Theatre, Redditch, B98 8AE.
Call 01527 65203

Noel Gallagher's High Flying Birds
Tonight at 6pm,
Genting Arena, Birmingham, B40 1NT.
Call 0121 780 4141

Big Girls Don't Cry: A Tribute To Frankie Valli & The Four Seasons
Tomorrow at 7.30pm,
Prince Of Wales Centre, Cannock, Staffordshire, WS11 1DE.
Call 01543 578762

Fudgetock 2016
Mon at 4pm - 11pm,
The Robin 2 Hotel, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

Creedence Clearwater Reviewed
Thu at 8.30pm,
The Robin 2 Hotel, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

Dementia Awareness Fest 2016
Sun at 3pm,
The RoadHouse Birmingham, Kings Norton, B30 3DZ.
Call 0121 246 2273

World Service Project
Thu at 8.30pm,
Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath, Birmingham, B14 7JZ.
Call 0844 870 0000

This Will Destroy You
Tonight at 7pm,
The Rainbow, Digbeth, Birmingham, B12 0LD.
Call 0121 753 1818

Benjamin Francis Leftwich
Thu at 7pm,
The Rainbow, Digbeth, Birmingham, B12 0LD.
Call 0121 753 1818

The Boxer Rebellion
Thu at 7.30pm,
Hare & Hounds, Birmingham, B14 7JZ.
Call 0844 870 0000

Michael Bolton
Sun at 7.30pm,
Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA.
Call 0121 780 3333

Chris Cornell
Mon at 7pm,
Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

Bryan Adams
Tomorrow at 6.30pm,
Genting Arena, Birmingham, B40 1NT.
Call 0121 780 4141

Anastacia
Tue at 7pm,
Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA.
Call 0121 780 3333

An Evening With Mark Lanegan
Mon at 7pm - 10.30pm,
The Glee Club, Birmingham, B5 4TD.
Call 0871 472 0400

Boy Jumps Ship
Thu at 7pm,
O2 Academy Birmingham, B1 1DB.
Call 0121 622 8250

Bon Giovi: Bon Jovi Tribute
Tonight at 7.30pm, £8
The Robin 2 Hotel, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

Rat Boy
Thu at 7pm, £8
The Institute, Digbeth, Birmingham, B5 6DY.
Call 0121 643 0428

Dixie Chicks
Tonight at 7.30pm, £49.20
Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham, B1 2AA.
Call 0121 780 4141

JAZZ, FOLK & BLUES

Richard Digance
Thu at 7.30pm, £16.25
Prince Of Wales Centre, Cannock, Staffordshire, WS11 1DE.
Call 01543 578762

Nina Nesbitt
Wed at 7pm,
The Institute, Birmingham, B5 6DY.
Call 0121 643 0428

Daniel Champagne
Tue at 7.30pm,
The Robin 2 Hotel, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

CLASSICAL & OTHER MUSIC

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Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA.
Call 0121 780 3333

Caroline Modiba
Tue at 1.05pm - 2pm,
Birmingham Conservatoire, Birmingham City University, B3 3HG.
Call 0121 331 5901

The Andrew Downes Performance Prize
Tonight at 7pm - 9pm,
Birmingham Conservatoire, Birmingham City University, B3 3HG.
Call 0121 331 5901

American Song Prize
Wed at 7pm - 9pm,
Birmingham Conservatoire, Birmingham City University, B3 3HG.
Call 0121 331 5901

Full 100 2016! With Tarrus Riley
Sun at 9pm,
O2 Academy Birmingham, B1 1DB.
Call 0121 622 8250

UB40 - Ali Campbell, Astro and Mickey
Sun at 6.30pm, £30
Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham, B1 2AA.
Call 0121 780 4141

City Of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra
Thu at 7.30pm, £12.50 - £45
Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA.
Call 0121 780 3333

David Rodigan
Tonight - Tomorrow at 9pm - 3am,
Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath, Birmingham, B14 7JZ.
Call 0844 870 0000

The Loft Party
Sat - Sun at 9pm - 3am,
Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath, Birmingham, B14 7JZ.
Call 0844 870 0000

Do Not Sleep
Sun - Mon at 2pm - 12am,
The Rainbow, Digbeth, Birmingham, B12 0LD.
Call 0121 753 1818

Joe Goddard
Sun - Mon at 9pm - 3am,
Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath, Birmingham, B14 7JZ.
Call 0844 870 0000

COMEDY

Debra Stephenson: Night Of One Hundred Voices
Tomorrow at 7.30pm,
Palace Theatre, Redditch, B98 8AE.
Call 01527 65203

Thursday Night Comedy Carousel
Thu at 7pm,
The Glee Club, Birmingham, B5 4TD.
Call 0871 472 0400

Jonny And The Baptists: The End Is Nigh
Wed at 8pm,
mac, Birmingham, B12 9QH. Call 0121 446 3232

Stand Up For The Heroes 2016
Sun at 6.30pm,
The Glee Club, Birmingham, B5 4TD.
Call 0871 472 0400

Russell Kane: Right Man, Wrong Age
Tomorrow at 8pm,
Birmingham Town Hall, B3 3DQ.
Call 0121 780 3333

TALKS

Shakespeare At The REP
Thu at 12pm,
Birmingham Repertory Theatre, B1 2EP.
Call 0121 236 4455

Psychic Sally: Call Me Psychic
Wed at 7.30pm,
Palace Theatre, Redditch, B98 8AE.
Call 01527 65203

Spotlight - After Anger: John Osborne & British Theatre Today
Wed at 6.30pm,
Birmingham Repertory Theatre, B1 2EP.
Call 0121 236 4455

Artforum
Wed at 4.30pm - 6.30pm,
Wolverhampton Art Gallery, WV1 1DU.
Call 01902 552055

Young Artists
Tomorrow at 1pm - 3pm,
Wolverhampton Art Gallery, WV1 1DU.
Call 01902 552055

The Director's Role In Leading The Organisation
Wed at 9.30am - 5pm, Thu at 9.30am - 5pm,
Library of Birmingham, B1 2ND.
Call 0121 303 4511

THEATRE

The Father
Tue at 7pm, Wed at 7.30pm, Thu at 2pm, 7.30pm,
Birmingham Repertory Theatre, B1 2EP.
Call 0121 236 4455

Priscilla Queen Of The Desert
Mon at 7.30pm, Tue at 7.30pm, Wed at 2.30pm, 7.30pm, Thu at 7.30pm,
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, WV1 1DE.
Call 01902 573320

The Carpenters Story
Tonight at 7.30pm,
New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

A Night Of Dirty Dancing
Thu at 7.30pm,
Palace Theatre, Redditch, B98 8AE.
Call 01527 65203

Kidderminster Rose Young People's Theatre: Red
Tonight at 7.30pm, Tomorrow at 7.30pm,
The Rose Theatre, Broadwaters, Kidderminster, DY10 2RX.
Call 01562 743745

Experiential Dance: Bridging The Void
Wed at 7.30pm,
mac, Birmingham, B12 9QH.
Call 0121 446 3232

F(L)IGHT
Tue at 7.30pm,
mac, Birmingham, B12 9QH.
Call 0121 446 3232

Swansea City Opera: La Boheme
Wed at 7.30pm,
Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, SY3 8FT.
Call 01743 281281

Isle Of Woman
Tomorrow at 8pm,
Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, SY3 8FT.
Call 01743 281281

Monty Python's Spamalot
Tonight at 7.30pm, Tomorrow at 2.30pm, 7.30pm,
Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, SY3 8FT.
Call 01743 281281

Arabian Nights...And Days
Thu at 8pm,
Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, SY3 8FT.
Call 01743 281281

Boldtext's Eurotrash - 8 Short EU Referendum Plays
Tue at 8pm - 9.30pm, Wed at 8pm - 9.30pm,
Birmingham Repertory Theatre, B1 2EP.
Call 0121 236 4455

Calling For Help!
Tonight at 8pm,
Artrix, Bromsgrove, B61 1PQ.
Call 01527 577330

Flare Path
Tonight at 7.30pm, Tomorrow at 2pm, 7.30pm,
Birmingham Repertory Theatre, B1 2EP.
Call 0121 236 4455

Dial M For Murder
Tonight at 7.30pm, Tomorrow at 2.30pm, 7.30pm,
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, WV1 1DE.
Call 01902 573320

Folk
Tonight at 7.45pm, Tomorrow at 7.45pm,
Birmingham Repertory Theatre, B1 2EP. Call 0121 236 4455

KFA: Elements Of Dance
Tomorrow at 2pm,
Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

Check out full listings in **the ticket** in Friday's Express & Star

Duncan delighted that life's a drag

FROM boy band hunk to drag queen — Duncan James is barely recognisable in his latest stage role.

The tattooed star of Blue could hardly look any more camp donned in bright platform shoes and a dress made of pink and yellow flip-flops.

Starring as Tick in hit musical Priscilla Queen of the Desert, he will be at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre for a six-day run from Monday.

As one of four members of pop band Blue, James sold more than 16 million records and is sure to draw crowds from across the Black Country.

As Tick and his alter ego drag queen Mitzi, James will be stepping into the frocks previously worn by the likes of Jason Donovan and Darren Day.

Aussie

Priscilla Queen of the Desert is based on the 1994 Australian film, The Adventures of Priscilla: Queen of the Desert, and follows the journey of two drag queens and a transsexual woman as they travel across the Aussie outback. On the road the trio meet a variety of characters and have to deal with a whole host of difficult situations including homophobic abuse and facing up to their pasts.

The action is accompanied on stage by a dazzling array of outrageous costumes and a hit parade of dance-floor favourites including Say a Little Prayer, Go West, Hot Stuff and Always on My Mind.

Joining James in the lead roles are Simon Green as Bernadette and Adam Bailey as Felicia.

After recently taken a break from



Duncan James is joined by his character Tick's drag queen alter ego Mitzi

the show, James tweeted: "Feels so strange to be on stage in Priscilla after having five weeks off! It's a weird feeling but finding my feet again — or should I say heels. It's going to be fabulous."

During winter 2014-15 the hunky singer, who had three number one

albums and 40 number one singles worldwide with Blue, starred as Jack in the pantomime Jack and the Beanstalk at Birmingham Hippodrome. He is also known for appearing on the 2007 series of Dancing on Ice.

Book at www.grandtheatre.co.uk or call 01902 429 212.

Actor back in winning role

ONE of the most highly acclaimed new plays of the decade is coming to Birmingham Rep in the production that won Kenneth Cranham the Olivier Award for best actor this year.

Following an acclaimed run in London, the veteran actor will return to the role that saw him take theatreland's most celebrated prize.

The Father will be staged at Birmingham Repertory Theatre from Tuesday to Saturday, May 7.

The play was written by French playwright Florian Zeller and received an unprecedented ten five-star reviews from national newspaper theatre critics.

The crisp and witty translation by Christopher Hampton of this intriguing and compelling drama sees Cranham reprise his unforgettable performance as Andre, and is joined by Amanda Drew, as his daughter Anne.

The character is an 80-year-old former tap dancer, or was he an engineer? The thing is, he is still wearing his pyjamas, can't find his watch, and is starting to wonder if he's losing control.

Cranham's many credits includes major roles in the West End and on Broadway, TV including Shine On Harvey Moon, Rome, The Tenant of Wildfell Hall, and films ranging from Chocolat and Made In Dagenham to Hellraiser II.

Performances are at 7pm on Tuesday and at 7.30pm from Wednesday to Saturday with matinees on Thursday and Saturday. Tickets start at £13.50 and can be bought by calling 0121 236 4455 or visiting birmingham-rep.co.uk website.

Country stars are on the way to Brum

THERE are major musical highlights coming up for country music fans. Tonight (Friday) the Dixie Chicks bring their Taking The Long Way tour to the Barclaycard Arena in Birmingham. With over 30 million albums sold, they are the biggest female band of all time in the US.

America's new star Brantley Gilbert, who has had double platinum albums with Halfway to Heaven and Just As I Am, will be playing Birmingham O2 Institute next Saturday, May 7.

Tomorrow (Saturday) catch four acts for £4 when the Emma Swindells Band are joined by Holloway Road, Chloe Chadwick and Gary O'Dea at Bantock House in Wolverhampton.

Slam dunk fun with the Globetrotters

THERE will be lots of slam dunk fun at the Barclaycard Arena in Birmingham on Saturday when the Harlem Globetrotters celebrate 90 years of basketball trick-shot entertainment.

The latest generation features Big Easy Lofton, Ant Atkinson, Hi-Lite Bruton, Thunder Law, Bull Bullard and Cheese Chisholm plus female stars TNT Maddox and Sweet J Ekworomadu.

Expect ball wizardry and amazing rim-rattling shots, plus lots of comedy in a show for all the family. Arena doors open at 6.30pm and the pre-game warm up starts at 7.10pm.

Fudgetstock in return to Robin 2

A MUSIC festival which raises money for Macmillan Cancer Support will take place at Bilston's Robin 2 on Bank Holiday Monday.

Fudgetstock returns to the venue and will feature Bethan & The Morgans, Craig Pate, Dead Sea Skulls, Electus, Mike Surman, Phoenix Rising and The Father Teds.

The event is being held in memory of Bill Edis, who was a sound engineer at the Robin 2 and died in November last year, aged 44. A charity auction will also take place during the event.

Tickets are £5 advance and £6 on the door. Doors open 4pm. Call box office on 01902 401211.

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We also hold a popular music festival a couple of times a year and plans are underway to create a Folk/Jazz club in the cellar bar (musicians get in touch!).

Here's what a typical week entails at the Samson and Lion of Stourbridge.

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CHOICE



Rod Stewart

Michael McIntyre's Big Show (BBC1, 7.05pm)
The comedian hosts another evening of entertainment at London's Theatre Royal on Drury Lane. This time he invites music industry veteran Rod Stewart and pop-rock singer James Morrison to perform, along with Extreme Flamenco fusion dancers, Los Vivancos, and comedian Romesh Ranganathan. The host also hijacks Dragons' Den star Peter Jones' mobile phone in Celebrity Send To All, which sees him fire off an embarrassing message to all the contacts in Jones' directory, and makes dreams come true for an unsuspecting electrician in Unexpected Star.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** MasterChef. (R) **12.00** BBC News; Weather. **12.10** Football Focus. **12.50** Saturday Sportsday. **1.00** Live Snooker: The World Championship. The opening semi-final is set to reach a conclusion. **4.30** Final Score. **5.10** BBC News. **5.20** Regional Programme. **5.25** Can't Touch This. With presenters Zoe Ball and Ashley Banjo.
6.15 **Pointless Celebrities.** Keith Chegwin and Iain Lee, Lisa Maxwell and Rav Wilding, Anthony Costa and Michelle Heaton and Helen Lederer and Nicholas Parsons compete in the celebrity quiz show. With hosts Alexander Armstrong and Richard Osman.
7.05 **Michael McIntyre's Big Show.** The comedian hosts another evening of entertainment at London's Theatre Royal on Drury Lane. This time he invites music industry veteran Rod Stewart and pop-rock singer James Morrison to perform.
8.00 **The National Lottery: Win Your Wish List.** Shane Richie presents the game show in which two contestants choose their dream prizes, then answer questions to try to win them. Including the Lotto and Thunderball draws.
8.50 **Casualty.** Max and Zoe intervene when Shelle seems to abduct Connor, and a poisonous spider is reported to be on the loose in Holby. Medical drama, starring Sunetra Sarker and Jamie Davis.
9.40 **Mrs Brown's Boys.** Agnes looks after a robotic baby that has been given to Dermot and Maria to help them prepare for their new arrival, and Cathy develops a crush on her psychology lecturer. (R)
10.10 **BBC News;** Weather.
10.30 **Match of the Day.** Gary Lineker presents all the highlights from the Premier League, including Newcastle United v Crystal Palace at St James' Park and Stoke City v Sunderland at the Britannia Stadium; National Lottery Update.
11.50 **Peter Kay's Comedy Shuffle.** More classic moments from the comedian's career over the past 20 years, including Peter's thoughts on dipping biscuits and embarrassing bodies. (R)
12.20 **World Snooker: Crucible Classics.** **2.20** Weather for the Week Ahead. **2.25** BBC News.

BBC2

6.05 **Film:** San Demetrio, London. (1943) **7.40** **Film:** Scott of the Antarctic. (1948) Fact-based drama, starring John Mills. **9.30** **The Women's Football Show.** (R) **10.00** **Live Snooker.** The World Championship. The third session of the second semi-final. **12.00** **Rick Stein:** From Venice to Istanbul. (R) **1.00** Bargain Hunt. (R) **2.00** Escape to the Continent. (R) **3.00** **The Hairy Bikers' Pubs That Built Britain.** (R) **3.30** Bake Off: Creme de la Creme. (R) **4.30** **Live Snooker:** The World Championship. The concluding session of the first semi-final. **5.30** **Flog It!** Presented by Paul Martin. (R)
6.30 **Dad's Army.** A secret weapon goes haywire and threatens Wainwright-on-Sea, so Mainwaring and his platoon abandon their cookhouse duties and speed to the rescue in Corporal Jones's van. Comedy, starring Arthur Lowe and Clive Dunn. First shown in 1972. (R)
7.00 **Live Snooker: The World Championship.** Hazel Irvine presents coverage of the fourth and final session of the second semi-final at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield, where the first player to reach 17 frames will progress to the final. This match produced a thriller last year between Judd Trump and Stuart Bingham, with Bingham prevailing 17-16 in a high-quality encounter to reach his first world final, where he would face former champion Shaun Murphy; Subsequent programmes subject to change.
9.30 **The Rack Pack.** Comedy drama based on the glory days of professional snooker in the 1980s and the legendary rivalry between Alex "Hurricane" Higgins and Steve Davis, featuring many key personalities of the time. Starring Luke Treadaway and Will Merrick.
11.00 **QI XL.** Extended edition. Josh Widdicombe, Jo Brand, Phill Jupitus and Alan Davies take part as host Stephen Fry asks a range of fiendish questions about lenses, lungs and legs.
11.35 **Film: Welcome to Collinwood.** (2002) Five bungling crooks find their tangled personal lives getting in the way of pulling off a robbery. Crime comedy remake, starring Sam Rockwell, William H Macy and George Clooney.
1.00 **Film: The Abominable Snowman.** (1957) **2.25** This is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 **CITV:** Bottom Knockor Street. **6.15** Bottom Knockor Street. (R) **6.25** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **7.00** Signed Stories. (R) **7.05** Sooty. (R) **7.15** Super 4. (R) **7.30** Nerds & Monsters. (R) **7.45** The Tom & Jerry Show. (R) **8.40** Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **8.25** **ITV News.** **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **10.20** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.20** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **12.20** **ITV News;** Weather. **12.29** Regional Programme. **12.30** **The Jeremy Kyle Show.** (R) **1.35** BBQ Champ. (R) **2.40** **Film: Smokey and the Bandit.** (1977) Comedy, starring Burt Reynolds and Jackie Gleason. **4.25** The Wine Show. **5.30** Regional Programme; Weather. **5.40** **ITV News;** Weather.
6.00 **You've Been Framed! Bites Back!** Harry Hill narrates a comical selection of mishaps filmed by viewers, including an angry wife who throws a dart into her husband's leg.
7.00 **Bang on the Money.** Rickie Haywood-Williams and Melvin Odoom host the game show in which two teams of friends aim to hit a specific target number in a series of physical and mental challenges.
8.00 **Britain's Got Talent.** Ant and Dec introduce more coverage from the nationwide talent show's touring audition stage, now in its fourth week, with the race hotting up to be crowned as the 10th champion in the history of the series. Amanda Holden shocked everyone on day one of auditions by pressing her Golden Buzzer to ensure big-voiced 12-year-old singer Beau Darnoff reached the semi-finals, but it remains to be seen whether Simon Cowell, David Walliams, Alesha Dixon or the two hosts will be reaching for their own buttons any time soon.
9.15 **Play to the Whistle.** Holly Willoughby hosts the sports-based comedy panel show, with guests Jonathan Ross, Chris Kamara and Jack P Shepherd joining captains Frank Lampard and Bradley Walsh.
10.00 **ITV News;** Weather.
10.15 **Film: Fast & Furious.** (2009) A fugitive and an FBI agent are forced to work together once again to bring a killer to justice. Thriller sequel, with Vin Diesel.
12.10 **Jackpot247.** **3.00** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **3.50** **ITV Nightscreen.**

CHANNEL 4

6.10 **The King of Queens.** (R) **6.35** The Grid. **7.05** Challenge Wanka. **7.30** Caterham Motorsport. **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.00** The Morning Line. **10.00** Frasier. (R) **10.30** Frasier. (R) **11.00** The Superhumans Show. **11.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.25** Come Dine with Me. (R) **1.30** Channel 4 Racing. Including the 2,000 Guineas at 3.45. **4.10** A Place in the Sun: Summer Sun. **5.10** Channel 4 News. **5.30** Formula 1: Russian Grand Prix Qualifying Highlights.
7.00 **Great Canal Journeys.** Timothy West and Prunella Scales embark on more watery adventures. This time, they head into uncharted waters to attempt one of the longest canal journeys in the world – 350 miles coast to coast across Sweden. The first leg of their voyage begins in Gothenburg, where they link up with the historic Gota Canal, taking them into the heart of the Scandinavian country and toward the Baltic Sea. (R)
8.00 **Coastal Walks with My Dog.** The first of two programmes in which celebrities invite viewers to accompany them, as they take their beloved canine companions for walks along some of Britain's most scenic coastline routes. In this instalment, Bill Bailey travels along a smugglers' trail in North Devon. Cerys Matthews explores Pembrokeshire's rugged coast, and Debra Stephenson walks along Dorset's Jurassic coast. Previously seen on More4.
9.00 **Film: The Sweeney.** (2012) An insubordinate detective and his loyal partner set out to stop a series of robberies across London. While they try to bring the criminals to justice, they come under investigation themselves as their unorthodox methods are met with disapproval from their superiors. Crime thriller based on the 1970s TV series, with Ray Winstone, Ben Drew, Damian Lewis and Hayley Atwell.
11.10 **Film: Transporter 2.** (2005) A politician's chauffeur sets out to rescue his employer's kidnapped son from Russian criminals. Action thriller sequel, with Jason Statham.
12.50 **Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA.** (R) **1.45** Hollyoaks. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **8.55** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **9.25** The Saturday Show Live. **11.30** Funniest Fails, Fails & Flops. (R) **12.00** Now That's Funny! (R) **1.00** Now That's Funny! (R) **2.00** Celebs on Benefits: Fame to Claim. (R) **3.00** Benefits: Yorkshire Dole. (R) **4.00** Benefits: The Millionaire Shoplifter. (R) **5.00** Benefit House: Me & My 26 Kids. (R)
6.00 **5 News Weekend.**
6.05 **NCIS: Los Angeles.** Callen and the team press Vance and their new team leader Lauren Hunter for more information about what happened to Hetty. Crime drama, starring Chris O'Donnell.
7.00 **NCIS: New Orleans.** A string of house robberies at Christmas takes a bloody turn when one of the victims, a Navy Commander's wife, is found dead at the scene. Among the items stolen is a laptop containing sensitive data, and the team is able to track the computer to a moving car. However, when the police intercept the driver, it turns out to be none other than Dr Wade's adopted son Danny.
8.00 **NCIS.** The team investigates a series of crime scenes that appear to be copy-cats of previous cases, and two of Gibbs' ex-wives appear at the location with something to discuss.
8.55 **5 News Weekend.**
9.00 **The Championship: Football League Tonight.** Kelly Cates and George Riley present extended highlights of the weekend's matches from the Championship, including Sheffield Wednesday v Cardiff City.
10.00 **Coal Rush: Football League Tonight.** A round-up of the latest matches in League One and League Two, including Blackpool v Wigan Athletic at Bloomfield Road and Burton Albion v Gillingham at the Priell Stadium.
10.30 **NCIS: Greatest Ever Episodes.** Tony and Ziva assume the identities of two dead assassins, and keep a rendezvous at a luxury hotel in a bid to identify their target. (R)
11.20 **NCIS: Greatest Ever Episodes.** Tony finds himself accused of murder, so the rest of the team sets out to clear his name – even though all the evidence points to his guilt. (R)
12.15 **SuperCasino.** **3.10** Grannies Make You Laugh Out Loud. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 A History of Ancient Britain **8.00** Natural World: The Real Jungle Book Bear **9.00** Hinterland **10.30** Dancing Cheek to Cheek: An Intimate History of Dance **11.30** Synth Britannia at the BBC **12.30** Synth Britannia **2.00** **Film:** Joy Division (2008) **3.35** Close
ITV2
11.20 Britain's Got Talent **12.40** Britain's Got More Talent **1.40** The Almost Impossible Gameshow **2.40** Scorpion **3.35** **Film:** The Flintstones (1994) **4.45** FYI Daily **4.50** **Film:** The Flintstones (1994) **5.20** **Film:** Liar Liar (1997) **6.25** FYI Daily **6.30** **Film:** Liar Liar (1997) **7.05** **Film:** Paranoia (2013) **8.05** FYI Daily **8.10** **Film:** Paranoia (2013) **9.15** Britain's Got More Talent **10.15** Celebrity Juice: 80s Special **11.05** Family Guy **12.30** American Dad! **1.30** The Cleveland Show **2.20** @elevenish **2.40** Teleshopping **5.40** ITV2 Nightscreen
ITV3
12.20 Wycliffe **1.30** **Film:** Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory (1971) **2.30** FYI Daily **2.35** **Film:** Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory (1971) **3.40** Inspector Morse **5.55** Midsomer Murders **8.00** Foyle's War **10.10** Lewis **12.00** Blue Murder **1.35** Doctor at Large **2.00** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping
ITV4
12.30 Pawn Stars **1.55** Football's Greatest: Bobby Charlton **2.15** Cycling: Tour de Yorkshire Live. Stage two from Otley to Doncaster. **6.30** Pawn Stars **7.00** The Big Fish Off **8.00** Cycling: Tour de Yorkshire **9.10** **Film:** You Only Live Twice (1967) **10.10** FYI Daily **10.15** **Film:** You Only Live Twice (1967) **11.25** **Film:** Gangs of New York (2002) **12.35** FYI Daily **12.40** **Film:** Gangs of New York (2002) **2.25** Hogan's Heroes **2.55** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping
E4
11.00 Baby Daddy **12.00** How I Met Your Mother **1.00** The Goldbergs **2.30** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **3.30** **Film:** St Trinian's 2: The Legend of Fritton's Gold (2009) **5.30** The Big Bang Theory **6.00** **Film:** Insidious (2010) **11.05** Gogglebox **12.40** The Inbetweeners **1.45** Tattoo Fixers **2.45** Rude Tube **3.40** Gogglebox **4.20** A to Z **4.40** Revenge
Film4
11.00 Carry On Dick (1974) **1.00** Chaelit Girl (2011) **2.55** Horton Hears a Who! (2008) **4.35** The Spy Next Door (2010) **6.20** The Core (2003) **9.00** American Reunion (2012) **11.10** Metallica: Through the Never (2012) **1.00** The Omen (1976) **3.20** Close

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CHOICE



Leanne Best

Home Fires (ITV, 9pm)
The villagers prepare for harvest time, but Steph struggles to cope with the workload and faces losing the farm if she cannot meet her quota. A newcomer to the community stirs up tension between Sarah and Frances, while Joyce and the Brindsleys also receive unexpected visitors. Teresa faces a big decision, while Sarah finds herself in a dangerous situation. Alison discovers the real reason behind the parachute accidents and makes a horrifying connection to the factory. She races to warn Frances before it is too late.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.35** Match of the Day. **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Regional Programme. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News: Weather. **1.15** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **2.15** Money for Nothing. (R) **3.00** Escape to the Country. (R) **3.45** Points of View. **4.00** Songs of Praise. **4.35** David Attenborough Meets President Obama. (R) **5.15** Pointless Celebrities. (R)
6.00 **Paul O'Grady: The Sally Army and Me.** The presenter takes on one of the Salvation Army's hardest tasks when he visits a hospice for the terminally ill before joining a marching band in Oxford Street. Last in the series.
6.30 BBC News.
6.50 Regional Programme.
7.00 **Countryfile.** Ellie Harrison visits Dorset's South Haver Peninsula, and discovers the story of 1930s conservationist Cyril Diver, who performed a groundbreaking survey of the area's ecosystem. She meets an ecologist working for the National Trust to discover how the results of his work have been used and what the future holds for the region. Plus, a selection of highlights from the series featuring conservation projects, including Weather For The Week Ahead.
8.00 **Antiques Roadshow.** Fiona Bruce presents the show from Lyme Park in Cheshire, where items brought in to be valued include a pair of pistols and a portrait of actress Sarah Bernhard. Last in the series.
9.00 **Undercover.** New evidence emerges that could prove Rudy's innocence, but Nick is unable to stop a vital piece of information being revealed that threatens everything that she has worked towards.
10.00 BBC News.
10.20 Regional Programme.
10.30 **Match of the Day 2.** Mark Chapman reviews the latest Premier League action, featuring Southampton v Manchester City.
11.40 **Film: The Last Castle.** (2001) A court-martialed general sent to a high-security military jail sets out to bring down the cruel warden. Thriller, starring Robert Redford.
1.45 **World Snooker: Crucible Classics.**
3.45 **Weather for the Week Ahead.** **3.50** BBC News.

BBC2

6.15 The Great Chelsea Garden Challenge. (R) **7.15** This Farming Life. (R) **8.15** An Island Parish. (R) **8.45** The Beechgrove Garden. **9.15** Countryfile. (R) **10.15** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.45** The Hairy Bikers' Asian Adventure. (R) **12.15** MOTD2 Extra. **1.00** Flog It! (R) **2.00** Live Snooker: The World Championship. The opening session of the final at the Crucible Theatre.
6.00 **Natural World: Meet the Moose Family.** The nature documentary tells the story of a mother moose bringing up her calf in the wilds of the Canadian Rockies. Many challenges lie ahead for the mother and son, not least from the threat of hungry bears and wolves that live nearby. Film-maker Hugo Kitching sets out to follow the duo through the four seasons, although things take an unexpected turn later in the year with the discovery of a third moose. (R)
7.00 **Live Snooker: The World Championship.** Hazel Irvine presents all the action from the second session of the final at Sheffield's Crucible Theatre, where a further nine frames are scheduled to take place. The second session of last year's final took on a similar pattern to the first, with Shaun Murphy threatening to open up a sizeable lead over Stuart Bingham, before being pegged back to an advantage of just one frame, heading into the final day 9-8 ahead. The commentary team features five former world champions in Dennis Taylor, Steve Davis, John Parrott, Ken Doherty and Stephen Hendry, along with Willie Thorne and John Virgo. Subsequent programmes subject to change.
11.00 **Film: Rabbit-Proof Fence.** (2002) Three Aboriginal children parted from their mothers by the government embark on an arduous journey home. Fact-based drama, with Evelyn Sampl.
12.25 **Sign Zone: Countryfile.** The team looks at the landscapes across Britain that inspired Shakespeare, while John Craven is joined by Judi Dench to visit a town in Kent where the Bard's company performed. (R) **1.25** Holly City. Arthur rallies when Moven's dad is admitted with liver disease, while Zosia persuades a terminal patient to be a guinea pig for Jac's new test prototype. (R) **2.25** This is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Bottom Knockout Street. **6.25** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **7.00** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.15** Sooty. (R) **7.15** Super 4. (R) **7.30** Nerds & Monsters. (R) **7.45** The Tom & Jerry Show. (R) **8.00** Teen Titans Go! (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **10.20** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.20** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **12.25** ITV News: Weather. **12.30** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **2.20** Fierce. (R) **3.20** Britain's Got Talent. (R) **4.35** Midsomer Murders. (R) **6.30** Regional Programme: Weather. **6.45** ITV News: Weather.
7.00 **The Chase Celebrity Special.** Bradley Walsh presents as celebrity contestants Mikey North, Una Healy, Carl Froch and Alison Hammond pit their wits against ruthless quiz genius the Chaser in the hope of winning a potential prize pot worth thousands of pounds. They must work as a team and play strategically to answer general knowledge questions against the clock and race down the game board to the exit without being caught.
8.00 **The Durrells.** The family faces the unwanted arrival of a domineering aunt, while Larry's girlfriend also pays a visit – giving the unwelcome relative an opportunity to voice her disapproval of the whole family. Even snakes an offer that helps Louisa cope with adversity and Margo falls in love – but Gerry is more concerned with his newly acquired owls.
9.00 **Home Fires.** The villagers prepare for harvest time, but Steph faces losing the farm if she cannot meet her quota. A newcomer to the community stirs up tension between Sarah and Frances.
10.00 **ITV News: Weather.**
10.20 **Sugar Free Farm.** Six famous faces undertake a dietary experiment to live without sugar for two weeks, moving into a farm, where they work in return for healthy, wholesome food. (R)
11.20 **Premiership Rugby Union.** Action from the 21st and penultimate round of regular-season fixtures, including Sale Sharks v Gloucester, Exeter Chiefs v Wasps, and London Irish v Harlequins.
12.15 Jackpot247. **3.00** Motorsport UK. **3.50** ITV NightScreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.15 The King of Queens. (R) **6.40** The King of Queens. (R) **7.05** The King of Queens. (R) **7.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.55** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** George Clarke's Amazing Spaces. (R) **1.30** Channel 4 Racing. Including the 1,000 Guineas at 3.40. **4.00** Location, Location, Location. (R) **5.00** A Place in the Sun. (R) **5.45** Channel 4 News.
6.00 **Formula 1: Russian Grand Prix Highlights.** Action from the race at the Sochi Autodrom, where Lewis Hamilton was hoping to make it a third successive win on this track. Hamilton's Mercedes team-mate Nico Rosberg started the 2015 race on pole, but a retirement on the seventh lap due to a locked throttle handed the lead to the Brit, who took full advantage and would eventually go on to win his third world championship at the end of the season.
8.00 **Paul Merton's Secret Stations.** New series. The comedian takes a tour of Britain's 152 secret stop stations to find out why they are there, who uses them, and the history of the area, with the aid of experts and enthusiasts. Paul begins his journey in the Scottish Highlands, stopping at Attadale to visit Lochcarron and a local salmon farm. He then takes a trip on the Cumbrian Coast Line, getting off at Dring and Silecroft, where he meets a group of fell runners. Finally, he visits Ferryside in Pembrokeshire and St Keyne Wishing Well Halt in Cornwall.
9.00 **Indian Summers.** Alice and Aafin plan to flee the country, and Cynthia offers to help them escape to Australia. However, Charlie comes dangerously close to uncovering their plan. Ian draws his sorrows following Sooni's decision, which leads him to accidentally stumble on a surprising revelation about an old friend that could put a stop to Ralph's political ambitions.
10.00 Gogglebox. (R)
10.55 **8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown.** Jimmy Carr hosts the comedy panel show's version of the words-and-numbers quiz, with regulars Sean Lock and Jon Richardson joined by guests Miles Jupp, Greg Davies and Holly Walsh. (R)
12.00 **Film: Red Lights.** (2012) **2.00** Come Dine with Me. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **6.20** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **6.30** Bob the Builder. (R) **6.45** Ticky Toc. (R) **6.55** Zack and Quack. (R) **7.05** Pets. **7.10** Noddy in Toyland. (R) **7.25** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.40** Little Princess. (R) **7.50** Pig Ahoy! (R) **8.05** Blaze and the Monster Machines. (R) **8.30** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **8.45** Wanda and the Alien. (R) **9.00** Toby's Travelling Circus. (R) **9.15** Jelly Jam. (R) **9.30** LazyTown. (R) **9.55** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **10.30** The Championship: Football League Tonight. (R) **11.30** Goal Rush: Football League Tonight. (R) **12.00** The Gadget Show. (R) **1.05** **Film: Another Cinderella Story.** (2008) Premiere. Musical comedy, starring Selena Gomez. **2.50** **Film: Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked.** (2011) Comedy sequel, starring Jason Lee. **4.30** **Film: Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs.** (2009) Animated comedy, with the voice of Bill Hader.
6.10 **Now That's Funny!** A bride gets cold feet at the altar, and various clips feature people who do not get what they want.
7.05 **The Secret Life of Puppies.** Two-part documentary following puppies' first year of life, beginning with the first eight weeks – the crucial period from birth to the moment they join their human families. (R)
8.00 **Penn & Teller: Fool Us in Vegas.** A man who designed illusions for David Blaine, David Copperfield and Dynamo performs his own act, while another magician performs a traditional card trick while blindfolded.
8.55 **5 News Weekend.**
9.00 **Film: Elysium.** (2013) Premiere. In the future, most of the human race exists in poverty on a ruined Earth, while a wealthy elite live in luxury on an orbiting space station. A man dying of radiation poisoning finds security forces to gain access to the satellite and its medical facilities. Sci-fi thriller from the director of District 9, starring Matt Damon, Jodie Foster and Sharlto Copley.
11.10 **Film: Drive Angry.** (2011) A man breaks out of Hell to track down the cult leader who has murdered his daughter and plans to sacrifice her baby. Fantasy thriller, starring Nicolas Cage and Amber Heard.
1.00 **SuperCasino.** **3.10** The Tube: Going Underground. (R) **4.00** Great Scientists. (R) **4.50** Great Artists. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 The Good Old Days **8.00** The Man Who Discovered Egypt **9.00** The Silk Road **10.00** Redefining Juliet **10.45** **Film: Hamlet** (1964) **1.10** The Sun **2.10** Horizon: Are We Alone in the Universe?
ITV2
11.30 Take Me Out **1.20** Catchphrase **2.05** **Film: Charlotte's Web** (2006) **3.05** FYI Daily **3.10** **Film: Charlotte's Web** (2006) **3.55** **Film: Liar Liar** (1997) **4.55** FYI Daily **5.00** **Film: Britain's Got More Talent** **8.00** **Film: Skyfall** (2012) **9.05** FYI Daily **9.10** **Film: Skyfall** (2012) **10.55** Family Guy **12.45** American Dad! **1.40** The Cleveland Show **2.30** Teleshopping
ITV3
1.05 Wycliffe **2.15** **Film: Columbo: Etude in Black** (1972) **4.15** **Film: The Secret of My Success** (1987) **5.15** FYI Daily **5.20** **Film: The Secret of My Success** (1987) **6.30** Richard Wilson on the Road **7.00** Doc Martin **8.00** The Cruise Ship **8.30** Royal Stories **9.00** Bette Midler: One Night Only **10.00** The Blonde Bombshell **12.10** **Film: The American President** (1995) **1.10** FYI Daily **1.15** **Film: The American President** (1995) **2.15** Blue Murder **3.10** May the Best House Win **4.50** On the Buses **5.15** Judge Judy **5.40** **ITV3** NightScreen
ITV4
11.00 Cycling: Tour de Yorkshire Live. Stage three from Middlesbrough to Scarborough. **5.00** Storage Wars: New York **5.55** The Wine Show **7.00** Cycling: Tour de Yorkshire **8.00** Premiership Rugby Union **9.00** **Film: Mercury Rising** (1998) **10.00** FYI Daily **10.05** **Film: Mercury Rising** (1998) **11.15** **Film: Inside Man** (2006) **12.15** FYI Daily **12.20** **Film: Inside Man** (2006) **1.55** Hell on Wheels **2.40** **ITV4** NightScreen
E4
1.00 Made in Chelsea **2.00** Joe & Caspar Penguins (2011) **5.00** Mr Popper's Penguins (2011) **5.10** The Big Bang Theory **8.00** The Big Bang Theory: 200 Big Ones **8.30** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **10.00** **Film: Fixers** **11.00** The Inbetweeners **12.05** The 100 **1.05** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **2.00** **Film: 4**
11.00 The Great St Trinian's Train Robbery (1966) **1.00** Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs (2009) **2.50** Millions (2004) **4.45** Cheaper by the Dozen (2003) **6.45** School of Rock (2003) **9.00** Bridesmaids (2011) **11.25** Byzantium (2012) **1.45** Damien: Omen II (1978) **4.00** Close

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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
Doc Hollywood, ITV, 10.30am
An arrogant doctor on his way to California causes an accident in a rural South Carolina town and is sentenced to community service at the local hospital. Initially desperate to leave, he gradually comes to appreciate a slower pace of life. Comedy, starring Michael J Fox. (1991)

TUESDAY
Paycheck, BBC1, 11.45pm
An engineer carries out a top-secret job on the understanding that his knowledge of the task will be erased from his mind afterwards to protect his employer's intellectual property. However, waking after the memory-wiping procedure, he is shocked to learn he had somehow agreed to waive the huge payment due to him – and is wanted for a murder he does not remember committing. John Woo's thriller, starring Ben Affleck, Uma Thurman and Aaron Eckhart. (2003)



The World Is Not Enough, Friday, ITV, 10.40pm

WEDNESDAY
Profile for Murder, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A criminal profiler retires to live in California with her family and move on from the horrific crime that ended her career. Her idyllic life is shattered when she discovers the serial killer responsible has escaped from prison and is intent on terrorising her. Thriller, starring Nicki Aycox and Steve Bacic. (2013)

THURSDAY
Deadly Pursuit, Channel 5, 3.15pm
An Alaskan wilderness guide visits a friend in LA, where he meets and falls in love with a well-off city girl. She clearly feels the same because when he returns home, she decides to follow him – only to come up against his ex-girlfriend and a sinister drug operation. Romantic thriller, starring KC Clyde. (2015)

FRIDAY
The World Is Not Enough, ITV, 10.40pm
James Bond is assigned to protect the heiress of an oil dynasty after her father is killed in a bombing at MI6 headquarters. The attack is the work of an infamous terrorist who is unable to feel pain after surviving a gunshot to his head. Spy adventure, starring Pierce Brosnan. (1999)

New comedy series is a real Royal affair

To mark the Queen's 90th birthday, there have been a few programmes that have promised an intriguing – but respectful – insight into what life is really like behind the closed doors of Buckingham Palace.

However, Channel 4's new sitcom The Windsors, which comes from Bert Tyler-Moore and George Jeffrie, aka the people who brought us Star Stories, definitely doesn't fall into that category. Instead, it presents the royals as we've never seen them before.

Bert explains: "It's looking at the real Royal Family, so using the real people – Will, Kate etcetera – as our characters, and presenting them in a larger-than-life, fictional soap opera.

He adds: "We know the real Wills flies a helicopter, so we've exaggerated that to the Nth degree

and have stories where our Wills is a real action-hero guy flying a helicopter and saving people's lives and behaving like a Tom Cruise-type character."

You might think that the writing duo had planned the series to coincide with the Queen's birthday, but it seems there is no real agenda behind The Windsors beyond making people laugh.

Bert says: "We never really thought "Oh wow, the Royal Family are crying out to be done." They're an institution that is always there. I think we just thought it was a funny idea, and then I suppose when we started thinking about it more seriously, we realised that they hadn't really been done properly since Spitting Image, and that's a long, long time ago. That's 25-30 years ago now."

In fact, it seems if anything, working on the series has made the writers fonder of the royals in general – and one member in particular.

George says: "I like our Prince Edward, who's sort of our age group. He's a contemporary of ours, and

he's often perceived as such a failure. So we've enjoyed a trip down memory lane, bringing up things people may have forgotten. Things like getting into Cambridge with a C and two D's. It's a Royal Knockout, being booted out of the marines after a couple of months.

"It's all in good fun. I like him a lot. They're all great, but I think he's my favourite."

We'll get to meet the rest of the Windsors in this opening double bill, including Prince Charles (Harry Enfield) as he tries to keep order, Wills (Hugh Skinner), who wants to mingle with people, and Pippa Middleton (Morgana Robinson), who is determined to bag a prince of her own.

The opening edition finds Kate (Louise Ford) attempting to win the royals over by helping Harry (Richard Goulding) with his fancy dress ball at Buckingham Palace. However, she'll have to contend with a gate-crashing Sarah Ferguson (Katy Wix), and a scheming Camilla (Haydn Gwynne), who is out to sabotage her efforts.



The Windsors, Friday, Channel 4, 10pm

BEST OF THE REST

class. Kim is doing her best to look after her little daughter Emily, but her relationship with Neil is looking shaky, especially as she prepares to see her ex-girlfriend Susie for the first time since they split up. Meanwhile, it seems 10 months isn't long enough for Dev to live down the fact that he locked baby Amber in a van, as his and wife Jasmin's mothers have moved in and are refusing to leave. Sadly though, that's about to be the least of their problems.

WEDNESDAY
Mary Beard's Ultimate Rome: Empire Without Limit BBC2, 9pm
English Classical scholar Mary Beard explores the physical world of the Roman Empire, finding surprising parallels with our own world. She discovers a vast empire bound together by a common material culture, and a globalised economy of such scale that evidence of its side-effects can still be seen today. As Mary examines a huge commercial and cultural network, she takes in the vital supply of olive oil to Rome, the slave trade, and the silver mines of



Mary Beard's Ultimate Rome: Empire Without Limit, Wednesday, BBC2, 9pm

Spain. Following the famous Roman road network, the presenter also reveals another side to the Roman Empire, where builders and traders eclipse soldiers, and slaves make the most of a hugely connected new world.

THURSDAY
Peaky Blinders BBC2, 9pm
New series. Cillian Murphy returns as Birmingham-based mobster Thomas Shelby in the third run of author Steven Knight's period drama. At the end of the last series, having outwitted his enemies once again, Shelby announced he was getting married – but who to? At last the long-awaited ceremony has arrived, but in the middle of the celebrations, a mysterious visitor puts the entire Shelby family in

danger, pulling the mob boss into a web of intrigue more lethal than anything he has yet encountered. Helen McCrory, Paul Anderson, Sophie Rundle and Joe Cole star as the family, with an appearance from Alexander Siddig (last seen as Dorne ruler Doran Martell in Game of Thrones).

FRIDAY
MasterChef: The Finals BBC1, 8.30pm
After seven weeks of challenges, the search for the country's best amateur cook reaches its climax. The three hopefuls must push themselves to the limit for one last time as they face the final challenge of producing three exceptional courses, in which they must push the culinary boundaries to ensure that they impress the judges. Then it's over to John Torode and Gregg Wallace, as they decide which of the trio deserves to succeed last year's victor Simon Wood and be crowned MasterChef Champion 2016. Last in the series.

The Secret ITV, 9pm
When Lesley inherits money from her father and threatens to leave him, it forces Colin's hand, and with Hazel's help he puts his murderous plan in motion. James Nesbitt stars.

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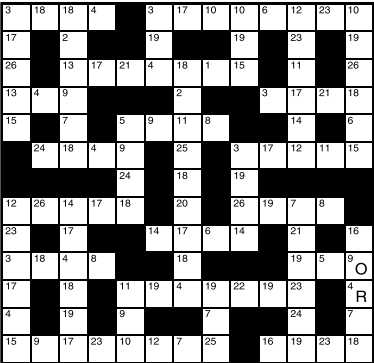
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BRAIN GYM No.375

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

Q	G	D	S	J	W	B	O	X	K	N	E	M
U	Y	I	T	L	R	A	Z	C	H	F	V	P

1	14
2	15
3	16
4	17
5	18
6	19
7	20
8	21
9	22
10	23
11	24
12	25
13	26

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

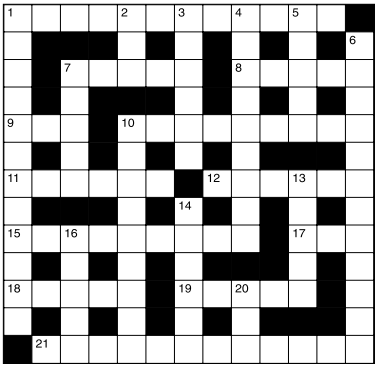
Cryptic Clues:

Across

- 1. This man's note may produce surprise (12)
- 7. Slide about and move sideways (5)
- 8. The "thank you" letter from Greece (5)
- 9. One hundred that is about to freeze (3)
- 10. False description of atheists? (9)
- 11. Puts up a secret entanglement (6)
- 12. Smooth tongue? (6)
- 15. Does such timber provide immunity? (5-4)
- 17. A ship that carries goods ashore (3)
- 18. Finally acquired an earthwork (5)
- 19. The doctor may take one for an idler (5)
- 21. Won't they want a penny for their thoughts? (4-8)

Down

- 1. Thrice curate perhaps - it's a way to earn a living (12)
- 2. What one does when agreeably tired? (3)
- 3. Such a railway may make a fair profit! (6)
- 4. Timber which may be put to striking use? (9)
- 5. She's exact about one point (5)
- 6. Old radio parts of the highest repute (4-8)
- 7. Cultivated European (5)
- 10. Yet it means there's only a slim hope! (3,6)
- 13. I am a long time getting the likeness (5)
- 14. Who had turned round the elephant's seat? (6)
- 16. Below two foreign articles (5)
- 20. Admit changes now (3)



Quick Clues:

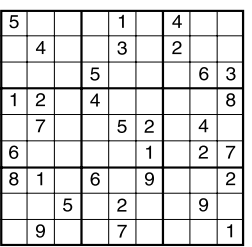
Across

- 1. Part of golf-course (7,5)
- 7. Dismay (5)
- 8. Supple (5)
- 9. Pinch (3)
- 10. Haughtiness (9)
- 11. To place (6)
- 12. Spider's trap (6)
- 15. Ornaments for horses (9)
- 17. Rocky hill-top (3)
- 18. Precise (5)
- 19. Laziness (5)
- 21. Sports ground (7,5)

Down

- 1. Mufti (5,7)
- 2. Little devil (3)
- 3. In abundance (6)
- 4. Devout (9)
- 5. Consumed (5)
- 6. Echoed (12)
- 7. Savoury jelly (5)
- 10. Aversion (9)
- 13. Observe (5)
- 14. Concord (6)
- 16. Benefit (5)
- 20. Lout (3)

Sudoku



Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

2	5	4	8	6	9	7	3	1
3	1	8	7	2	4	5	6	9
9	6	7	1	3	5	8	4	2
7	3	9	4	6	1	6	2	5
6	2	1	3	5	7	9	8	4
8	4	5	6	9	2	3	1	7
1	9	5	4	6	2	7	8	3
4	8	2	9	7	3	1	5	6
5	7	6	2	1	8	4	9	3

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 4 Miscall; 8 Untrue; 9 Homonym; 10 Treads; 11 Hinder; 12 Increase; 18 Commando; 20 Teaser; 21 Imogen; 22 Spreads; 23 Little; 24 Density. Down: 1 Curtain; 2 Stretch; 3 Subdue; 5 Isotherm; 6 Crowns; 7 Laymen; 13 Accredit; 14 Knights; 15 Bounded; 16 People; 17 Assets; 19 Memoir. QUICK - Across: 4 Weighty; 8 Umpire; 9 Aground; 10 Lethal; 11 Nation; 12 Variable; 18 Farical; 20 Vigour; 21 Evolve; 22 Effaced; 23 Bruise; 24 Already. Down: 1 Outlive; 2 Upstart; 3 Armada; 5 Engineer; 6 Growth; 7 Tendon; 13 Befriend; 14 Acclaim; 15 Altered; 16 Sinful; 17 Donate; 19 Covert.

Thinking space

Quiz

- 1. On which island is the port Launceston?
- 2. What type of animal is a duiker?
- 3. What is the name of Birmingham City Football Club's home ground?
- 4. Of what is the angstrom a unit?
- 5. Who directed the film E.T.?
- 6. Which conductor established the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra in 1946?
- 7. What is the middle period of the Mesozoic era called?
- 8. Which union is known as the RMT?
- 9. Which term for a group of hostile infiltrators originated in the Spanish Civil War?
- 10. What is the full name for the medical condition ME?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 The Hague; 2 David, 2nd king of

Israel; 3 Colorado; 4 John Noakes; 5 Jutes;

6 Eye; 7 Georges Bizet; 8 Alps; 9 Orion;

10 Peach.

Niner: PATRONISE

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

5845

97631

97429

gives a boy's name,

gives a second boy's name,

gives a third boy's name.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

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An Express & Star supplement

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PROPERTY

YOUR WEEKLY
GUIDE TO HOME
BUYING AND
LETTING

Substantial and distinctive detached home

In a delightful and desirable setting overlooking the impressive grounds of New Bradley Hall and adjoining the former glass museum, 17 Compton Drive, Kingswinford is a distinctive and substantial modern detached family home.

Coming with a double garage, driveway and good sized, level sunny rear garden and being at the head of a cul-de-sac, this home is extended and spacious, being for sale through Taylors at £395,000 with no chain.

Compton Drive is approached from Stream Road and is within walking distance from the heart of Kingswinford.

With gas central heating and double glazing it has a canopy porch, a reception hall with stairs off and under-stairs storage, a re-fitted WC, a generous lounge with French doors to the rear garden, a living flame gas fire in an inglenook-style fireplace surround and double doors opening to a formal dining room with a walk-in bay window.

Luxury

The luxury re-fitted breakfast kitchen has a superb range of oak finish Shaker-style units with soft closing cupboards/drawers and complementary working surfaces and a sink and drainer, integrated dishwasher, electric hob, cooker hood, double fan assisted oven, utility/laundry room with oak finish units, working surface and a door to the garden.

Off the first floor L-shaped galleried landing is bedroom one with an en-suite shower room. Bedroom two has open views to the frontage while bedroom three also overlooks the frontage, bedroom four overlooks and rear while bedroom five overlooks the side.

The re-fitted house bathroom includes a bath and a separate shower cubicle.

Outside is a broad front/side driveway with planted borders, a double garage and gated access to the rear garden. This comprises a full width paved patio area, a well maintained lawn, stocked borders, an ornamental pond with a fountain and a gravel path to a small vegetable patch. The rear garden has a sunny aspect.

Established in 1987, Taylors Estate Agents has five offices successfully addressing the needs of home sellers and buyers in the Black Country.

KINGSWINFORD £395,000



TO VIEW THIS PROPERTY

AGENT: Taylors
TEL: 01384 401777
EMAIL: kingswinford@
taylors-estateagents.co.uk

KEY FEATURES

- 5 bedrooms
- Luxury re-fitted breakfast kitchen
- Well placed for commuting
- Close to good schools
- Energy rating D



TO VIEW THIS PROPERTY

AGENT: Hicks Hadley
TEL: 0121 5856667

Much-improved and extended semi is located in a popular area of Halesowen

A much-improved and extended semi-detached property in a popular area in Goodrest Avenue, Halesowen is within walking distance of good local schools, local amenities and close to transport links.

It is for sale through Hicks Hadley at £259,950. Its accommodation briefly comprises a re-fitted extended kitchen, a large lounge/dining room, a downstairs shower room which has been expensively re-fitted with a large fully tiled walk-in shower cubicle, low flush WC, wash hand basin, fitted spot light, tiled flooring and a heated towel rail, three double sized bedrooms and a family bathroom.

The property further benefits from having large rear garden, a driveway with parking for several cars, gas central heating and double glazing.

For information cvisit www.hickshadley.com

KEY FEATURES

- Refitted extended kitchen
- Large lounge/dining room
- Downstairs shower room
- Walking distance to schools
- Price: £259,950



IBIS GARDENS KINGSWINFORD

A well presented four bedroom detached property in this much sought after residential location. The accommodation comprises of entrance hall, wc, lounge, dining room, conservatory, fitted kitchen and play room. Master bedroom with en-suite, further 3 bedrooms and house bathroom. The property further benefits from having gas central heating, rear garden, block paved driveway affording off road parking and garage. UNFURNISHED DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO EPC RATING =: D DSS:NO CHILDREN:YES PETS:NO SMOKERS:NO
£895.00PCM DEPOSIT £995 ● FEES



CLARENCE STREET UPPER GORNAL

A two bedroom terrace property situated in a popular residential location. Accommodation comprises of Lounge, kitchen, downstairs WC, two bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from gas central heating, double glazing, allocated parking and small enclosed garden. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING =C DSS:MAY CONSIDER CHILDREN:YES PETS:NO SMOKERS:NO
£525 DEPOSIT £625 ● FEES



CAVALIER DRIVE HALESOWEN

A very well presented first floor, two bedroom apartment in a popular and sought after location with accommodation to comprise of: Communal Entrance Hall, Private Reception, Lounge, fitted kitchen, Two bedrooms and bathroom. The property also benefits from electric heating, double glazing, allocated parking and communal gardens. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING - C DSS:NO PETS:NO CHILDREN: YES SMOKERS:NO
£500.00PCM DEPOSIT £600 ● FEES



THE OVAL RUSSELLS HALL ESTATE

An unfurnished two bedroom semi detached property situated within the vicinity of Russells Hall Hospital with accommodation to comprise of: Entrance hall, lounge/diner, kitchen, rear lobby, two bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from having double glazing, front and rear gardens and off road parking. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = D DSS:MAY CHILDREN: YES SMOKERS: NO PETS: NO
£475.00PCM DEPOSIT £575 ● FEES

CASTLE MEWS STOURTON



An extremely well presented three bedroom mews style property situated in a popular semi rural location within the grounds of Stourton Castle. Accommodation comprises of dining room, lounge, kitchen, three bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from gas central heating and allocated parking. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = D DSS:NO CHILDREN: YES PETS:NO SMOKERS:NO
£825.00PCM DEPOSIT £925 ● FEES

PROPERTY OF THE WEEK



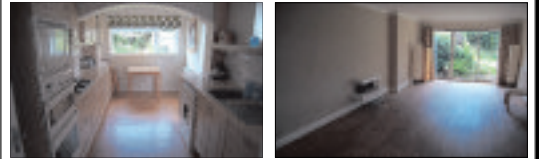
STEWPNY COURT STOURTON

An extremely well presented two bedroom first floor apartment situated in a popular residential location, the accommodation comprises of entrance hall, lounge fitted kitchen, master bedroom with en-suite, second bedroom and bathroom. The property benefits from gas central heating, double glazing and allocated parking. UNFURNISHED 12 Month Tenancy EPC RATING = B DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO
£600.00PCM DEPOSIT £700 ● FEES



FOXDALE DRIVE BRIERLEY HILL

A well presented two bedroom first floor apartment in a popular residential development. The property benefits from double glazing and allocated parking. The accommodation comprises of: Communal entrance hall, Private entrance hall, 'L' Shaped Lounge, Kitchen, Bathroom and Two Bedrooms. UNFURNISHED
 EPC RATING=C DSS:NO PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO CHILDREN: MAY
£410.00PCM DEPOSIT £510 ● FEES



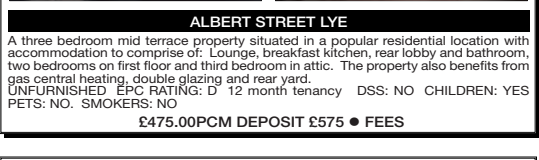
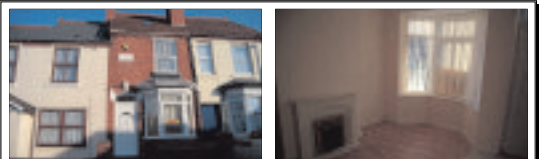
BELBROUGHTON ROAD NORTON

A beautifully presented three bedroom semi detached property situated in a much sought after residential location with accommodation to comprise of: Entrance hall, downstairs WC, lounge/diner, fitted kitchen, three bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from gas central heating, double glazing, integral garage, driveway affording off road parking and rear garden. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = E DSS NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO
£775.00PCM DEPOSIT £875 ● FEES



TALBOT STREET LYE

A three bedroom Mid Terrace property situated in an established residential area. The accommodation comprises: Entrance hall, lounge, fitted breakfast kitchen, three bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from having gas central heating, double glazing, lawned foregarden and paved rear garden. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = D DSS:NO PETS:NO SMOKERS:NO CHILDREN: YES
£525.00PCM DEPOSIT £625 ● FEES



ALBERT STREET LYE

A three bedroom mid terrace property situated in a popular residential location with accommodation to comprise of: Lounge, breakfast kitchen, rear lobby and bathroom, two bedrooms on first floor and third bedroom in attic. The property also benefits from gas central heating, double glazing and rear yard. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING: D 12 month tenancy DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO. SMOKERS: NO
£475.00PCM DEPOSIT £575 ● FEES



KINGS MEWS KING STREET WOLLASTON

A modern one bedroom ground floor apartment situated in walking distance of Wollaston Village with accommodation to comprise of: Communal entrance hall, private entrance hall, lounge/kitchen, shower room and bedroom. The property further benefits from having double glazing, electric heating, off road communal parking and decked patio area. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = C DSS: NO CHILDREN: NO PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO
£395.00PCM DEPOSIT £495 ● FEES

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A6 Allroad all-round monster

By John Griffiths

AUDI'S powerful A6 allroad is something of a one-off – it's hard to find a direct competitor to this big and powerful luxury estate car with the ability to take the rough with the smooth.

There are cheaper 4x4 estates, of course, than the £55,000 allroad, and there are the full-on SUVs. But the Audi seems to fill a niche between the two genres, and as we've seen so often in the car market filling the right niche is the way to win sales.

The test car was the flagship of the relatively limited range, powered by the punchy 320PS, 3.0 litre bi-turbo diesel, with a whopping 640NM of torque providing maximum pulling power from a low 1,400rpm. That's enough to propel this big, two tonne monster from a standstill to 62mph in just 5.5 seconds. There are other versions, with 218 and 272PS, for those who want to reduce the cost of acquisition and ownership.



The allroad's primary 'home' is on the road, a premium saloon which, arguably thanks to its air suspension, offers an even more refined experience than its sibling, the 'standard' A6 Avant. But that system is also key (along with its quattro four wheel drive system) to its ability to cope off-road, too. A touch of a button on the central control screen allows you to raise the ride height by 60mm to tackle rougher tracks and fields.

The cabin, which exudes quality, can seat five adults in comfort and still have room for an impressive 654 litres of cargo (1,680 with the rear seats folded).

With the suspension set at its lowest level for the roads, the driving experience is very much that of premium saloon. It remains smooth and quiet even over poorly surfaced B-roads, but despite its size it remains stable and agile through the twisty sections.

The Tiptronic automatic transmission responds rapidly to demands for power, and there's plenty to spare, for a quick overtake without the need to rev or stress the engine. And having eight speeds to choose from means the higher top helps the allroad achieve its impressive 43.5mpg official average. Progress feels calm, almost lazy, but deceptively quick so that you need to be alert to avoid breaking the law: the head-up display (which projects your current speed on your eye-line) is a useful if costly £1,240 extra to this end.

The allroad, as a range flagship, naturally comes with all the expected creature comforts of leather, electrically adjustable and heated seats, multi-zone climate control, a premium audio system and full connectivity. The car's systems, from air suspension adjustments to satnav and comprehensive trip computer, are controlled via the central col-



.....
It has produced a 'crossover' version of a premium saloon which its principle German rivals don't have
.....

our touchscreen, with further remote controls on the steering wheel. The A6 allroad offers more space and considerably more power (in some cases twice as much) as potential 4x4 estate rivals from Volvo and Subaru.

It doesn't claim to offer the ultimate off-road ability of some of its full-blown SUV competitors but there will be potential buyers who – as Audi is aware – don't want or need that: how many owners really do risk a car costing tens of thousands in extreme terrain.

So Audi has produced a car which is rather less of a mud plunger but with the on-road manners of a premium saloon. And for less cost, with its lighter weight and slipperier aerodynamics helping to save fuel and giving it a highly competitive (in this class) and tax efficient 172g/km CO2 rating.

It has produced a 'crossover' version of a premium saloon which its principle German rivals don't have, and it may well be that one of its principle rivals turns out to be Jaguar's new F-Pace.

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Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO₂ emissions (g/km). Vauxhall Corsa range: Urban: 36.2 (7.8) - 76.3 (3.7), Extra-urban: 57.6 (4.9) - 94.2 (3.0), Combined: 47.1 (6.0) - 88.3 (3.2). CO₂ emissions: 140-85g/km.*

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F-Pace is setting the pace

By Matt Joy

It's the first ever SUV to come from Jaguar and the most important new car to arrive this year. We find out if the F-Pace is really a Jaguar as well as a 4x4.

On paper, the F-Pace is as new as they come. Rumours of Jaguar building an SUV started in the 1990s, but it's taken until now for one to arrive.

It's designed to offer the space and practicality that SUV buyers demand whilst still looking – and crucially, also driving – like a real Jaguar should.

Under the svelte skin, the F-Pace is based on the same aluminium architecture as the XF, while the four-wheel-drive system is derived from that used on the F-Type. It also gets some off-road technology as well as some neat tricks of its own.

Finished in the striking Caesium Blue of the special First Edition model and riding on the vast 22-inch alloy wheels, the F-Pace is a superb looking machine in the flesh. It's a coherent design too, not just a Jaguar grille applied to a tall car, with obvious nods to other Jaguar models and a sense of style and speed.

The lower-specification models still look good too, although it's likely that the 22-inch wheels will become something of an essential choice.

There's no doubt Jaguar's image has been on the up for the best part of a decade now and it's certainly ready to carry an SUV in its range. With the reputation of its other models well cemented, it may just become the driver's pick in the segment.

There's no escaping the fact that buyers

move into SUVs from other models because they want the space, whether they use it or not, but Jaguar has clearly done its homework. It's a mid-sized machine but inside it feels big, front and rear. From the driver's seat you get the better view out, but still with a saloon-like driving position, with plenty of leg and elbow room.

There's excellent legroom in the back too and sufficient width for three adults, though headroom is fine up to average heights with the optional sunroof. The boot is huge at 650 litres with the seats in place and it's well sized; long and tall as well as wide with no irritating intrusions, with plenty of useful storage in the cabin too.

It's a complement to the F-Pace and the team behind it that sometimes it's easy to think you're behind the wheel of a Jaguar saloon.

Pleasure

Regardless of engine choice there is a sweetness and a directness to the response from the controls – in particular the steering – that demonstrates a commitment to driving pleasure. Whether you're just ambling around town or destroying a B-road, the F-Pace flows along as well as its saloon siblings.

The 375bhp 3.0-litre supercharged V6 petrol is likely to be the least popular option, but it's definitely the most fun. It rasps and crackles when extended and makes the F-Pace a real sporting car.

During a long drive on some challenging country roads, it made fantastic progress, being quick, controlled and composed.

The 2.0-litre diesel with 178bhp will be the best seller in the UK and, while it can't compete with the V6 petrol on performance, it has a strong set of figures; 318lb.ft of torque, 0-62mph in 8.7 seconds, 53.3mpg combined



and 139g/km of CO2. The eight-speed automatic shifts quickly and smoothly to make the most of the engine torque and noise levels are kept in check.

Even though it will almost never be used this way, the F-Pace still has genuine off-road ability too. All Surface Progress Control allows the driver to set a desired speed below 19mph and the F-Pace will trickle along, managing the brakes and accelerator up or down hill as you steer.

The entry-model in the F-Pace range is the two-wheel-drive Prestige 2.0-litre diesel man-

ual costing £34,170, which comes with cruise control, torque vectoring, front and rear parking sensors, traffic sign recognition, 18-inch alloy wheels and the InControl Touch infotainment system with DAB and satellite navigation, which for many buyers will be all the kit they'll ever need.

There's even a clever gadget called the Activity Key, which is a rubberised waterproof wrist strap that allows you to lock the actual keys in the car during sports or activities, and is unlocked by simply touching the boot badge with the strap. It's a smart idea for £300.

The F-Pace is a car with exceptionally broad appeal. It has the SUV presence and heft that buyers are keen on, but it's better to look at than any of its rivals, which may attract more female buyers.

It's also great fun to drive as well as relaxing, which will make it more appealing to buyers who need to trade up for more space.

And those who do need the space should find the F-Pace has as much as they need, with the reassurance of off-road security.

The F-Pace could be the car that blows the competition out of the water.

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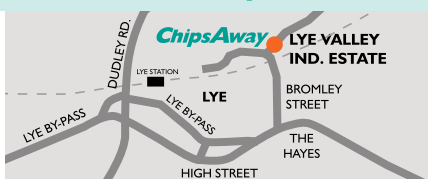
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09/09 Audi A4 2.0 TDI Diesel 143 SE 5dr Multitronic Auto Estate, 88k, Black, Alloys, Digital Air Con, CD, E/Windows £9495 / £49 Per Week	10/10 Skoda Fabia 1.9 TDI Sport 60k, Mauve with White Roof, Alloys, Air Con, CD, E/Windows £5495 / £28 Per Week
09/09 Mercedes C250 Blue-Efficiency 2.2 CDI Diesel Elegance 84k, Grey, Black Leather, Alloys, CD, E/Windows £8495 / £46 Per Week	11/11 Ford Focus Sport 1.6 TDCi Diesel 5dr, 79k, Black, Alloys, Sat Nav, CD, E/Windows £5295 / £27 Per Week
10/10 Saab 9-3 Linear SE Cabriolet T1D 1.9 Diesel *ONE OWNER* Black, Cream Leather, Alloys, Air Con, CD, E/Hood, E/Windows £7995 / £42 Per Week	08/08 Renault Kangoo 1.6 Expression Automatic, ONLY 20k MILES, Blue, E/Windows, CD, Spacious MPV £4495 / £26 Per Week
09/09 Mini Cooper 1.6 Convertible 35k, White with Black Hood, Alloys, CD, E/Windows, E/Hood £7995 / £42 Per Week	08/08 Ford Mondeo 2.0 TDCi Diesel Edge 5dr [140] Automatic, 118k, Blue, Air Con, CD, E/Windows £3695 / £23 Per Week
08/08 Jaguar X-Type 2.2D S Diesel 4dr Automatic, 59k, Blue, Alloys, Half Cream Leather, Air Con, CD, E/Windows £6995 / £36 Per Week	04/04 Audi A2 1.4 TDI Diesel SE 5dr, ONLY £30 Road Tax, Black, Alloys, Climate, CD Player, E/Windows £2495 / £19 Per Week
09/09 Mini Cooper Diesel 52k, Black with Chequered Roof, Alloys, Average 62 mpg, Air Con, CD, E/Windows £6995 / £36 Per Week	05/05 Renault Modus 1.5 DCi Diesel 65 Expression 5dr, AVERAGE 61 MPG! Red, CD Player, Electric Windows £1995 / £15 Per Week
06/06 Toyota Rav-4 XT4 D-4D 2.2 Diesel 4WD 5dr, 75k, Silver, Alloys, Air Con, CD, E/Windows, E/Sunroof £6795 / £35 Per Week	02/02 Smart City-Coupe Smart and Pulse Automatic ONLY £30 Road Tax, 64k, Black, Alloys, Black Leather, Heated Seats, Glass Roof, CD, E/Windows £1995 / £15 Per Week

Finance example: Ford Mondeo 2.0 TDCi Diesel, Cash Price £3695, Deposit £300, Amount of credit £3395, Fixed interest rate 6.25% Flat rate, 11.8% Apr, 48 Payments of £97.73 (£25.56 per week) Total amount payable £4991.04 (Includes Document fee and Completion fee, Subject to status)

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4 Pets & Animals
vets

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guns & dogs

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Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer:
1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with its Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree. Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

JEFFREY'S DOG WALKING/sitting service W-ton. Fully insured/registered. Senior Citizen rates. 07874 913703.

MINIATURE PEDIGREE Chihuahuas, female, multi coloured, all injections. £475. 07592 477308.

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WANTED KITTEN 8-10 weeks, must be in good health, good home waiting. 0121 239 6133.

5 Business & Farming

business opportunities

READERS are recommended to take appropriate professional advice before entering any obligations.

7 Jobs
employment wanted

CONSTRUCTION SUPERVISOR
with demolition experience seeks work, NVQ level 3 with CSCS Gold card, 40 years experience.
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ACCOUNTS OFFICE CLERK for lawn mower company, 20 hrs p.w. Experienced in Sage Line 50, Excel & Word. Till reconciliation. Sales & Purchase Ledger. General office admin and good interpersonal skills. Tel: 01384 443499 mornings.

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8 Motoring
cars over £1500
ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED that the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.
BMW 730 Diesel Sport auto, 2003, MoT Feb 2017, silver, fully electric all leather, 20" BMW alloys, loads of work, receipts to prove, very good condition. £3,000. 07775 698389.
SELLING YOUR CAR?
We have a package to suit every budget. Packages start from as little as £21.00 for 6 nights Plus 6 nights free if you do not sell.
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SELLING YOUR CAR?
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FIAT PUNTO, 2006, 1.4 Active Sport, orange, 3 door, CD, e/w, MoT, alloys, good clean condition, £1,499 ono. 07761 532710.

HONDA JAZZ 1.4 AUTO 2008, silver, low mileage, full Service history. £4,500 ono. 01902 425866.

MERCEDES CLK280 AMG CONVERTIBLE 06 reg, very good condition, 72k miles, silver, would consider Freelander auto in part exchange, must be in good condition. £6,995. 01902 682353/07791 512408.

PEUGEOT 207 CONVERTIBLE, blue, very good condition, 08 plate, 20,500 miles, MoT August, £2,700 ono. 07813 040674.

TOYOTA RAV 4 ESTATE 2005, 68,000 miles, black, abs, electric windows, air bag, electric mirrors, air con, alarm, long MoT, central locking, cruise control, pas, sunroof, alloys. £3,695 ono. 07958 215758.

PEUGEOT 407 SE 2005, petrol, manual, very clean. £650. 07950 398750.

RENAULT MEGANE SCENIC AUTOMATIC 1.6, 2001, black, 5 door, 79,000 miles, 10 months MoT, FSH, E/W, A/C, Good condition. £750 ono. 07804 163111.

SKODA OCTAVIA 1.6 2003, 117,000 miles, grey, abs, air bag, MoT until Sept 2016, central locking, pas, alloys, stereo. Recent timing belt and water pump. £475 ono. 07789 172467.

TOYOTA AVENTIS 1.8VVTI GS 2002, 90k miles, new engine fitted at 46k miles by Toyota main dealer, many new parts, all receipts & invoices kept, FSH. £850 ono. 07803 615741.

TOYOTA LUCIDA X 2.2 (P), diesel, auto, grey, 7 seats, Immobiliser, good condition, 102k, £350 ono. 07791 550578 or 01902 339813.

VAUXHALL ASTRA 1999, 940,000 miles, very clean body and engine, excellent runner, 2 owners only £350 ono. 07739 161594.

VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2, 52 reg, 5 door, 56,000 miles, FSH, CD player, central locking, A new tyre. £995 ono. 07779 455916.

classic cars
WANTED, CLASSIC CARS. Private cash buyer. Instant cash settlement. Any age. Any condition. 01630 652993 or 07773 462797.

commercial vehicles
FORD TRANSIT CONNECT 07 reg, 1 owner from new, FSH, red. £1685 ono. 07939 483221.

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motorbikes
HONDA REBEL 250 CLASSIC 1998, excellent condition for age. £399 ono. Contact Lisa 07505 357726.

scrap vehicles
OUR ADVERTISERS are reminded that it is an offence under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 to buy scrap cars/metal for cash.

GOODS VEHICLE OPERATOR'S LICENCE
BESTRANS LIMITED of 6A Stanley Road, Stourbridge, West Midlands, DY8 2DN is applying for a licence to use **PROTEC ENAMEL** G. K. Davies Industrial Estate, Hayes Lane, Stourbridge, DY9 8QX as an operating centre for 6 goods vehicles and 4 trailers Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds LS9 6NF stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representatives must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's Office. Dated: April 28th, 2016.

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9 Local Information

public & legal notices

LEGAL / PUBLIC NOTICES
For convenience you may fax any advertising requirements to Marie Hogg on 01902 713146 or email marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk (remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

DOROTHY AGNES MORETON (Deceased)
Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of 53 Troon Place Wordsley Stourbridge West Midlands DY8 5EN and also Hillcroft Nursing & Residential Care Home 135 High Street Wordsley Stourbridge West Midlands DY8 5GS, who died on 27/11/2015, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 29/05/2016, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.

GENTLEMAN 54
Looking for lady between 45 - 65, with or without children. Photo appreciated and will be returned.

Box Number P20330, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 (AS AMENDED)
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION (SPECIAL EVENTS) ACT 1994
DUDLEY - KINGSWINFORD 10K ROAD RACE
MILE FLAT, GREENSFORD, WORLDS END ROAD, CHESTER ROAD, MILL LANE, GREAT CHECKHILL ROAD, GREENSFORD LANE (GREENSFORD)
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Staffordshire County Council made an Order on the 28 April 2016 the effect of which will be to prohibit any vehicle from proceeding along the following lengths of roads:
Mile Flat, Greensford, Worlds End Road, Chester Road, Mill Lane, Great Checkhill Road and Greensford Lane.
Unless the vehicle is being used in connection with the event; or being used for police, fire brigade or ambulance purposes.
The restrictions are necessary to support the police operation in maintaining the safety of all road users along the route of the 'Flat Mile' event including competitors and team support. The restrictions will be in place from approximately 18:45 until the end of the race which is anticipated to be 21:00.
The preferred alternative route for traffic will be available via Hinksford Lane, High Street, The Holloway, Chasepool Road, Camp Hill Road, Highgate Common, Morfe Lane, Morfe Hall Lane, Blundies Lane, A458 Bridgnorth Road, A458 Cole Lane, A458 Bridgnorth Road, A449 Kidderminster Road, A449 Prestwood Road, A449 Wolverhampton Road and A449 Kidderminster Road.
Additional advance signage for HGVS will be placed in advance of the diversion route.
The Order will not, at any time, prevent access of pedestrians to premises situated on or adjacent to any road to which the order relates, or to any premises only accessible to pedestrians from such a road.
The Order will come into operation on the 4th May 2016 and will remain in force until the Dudley - Kingswinford 10K Road Race is completed.
The event is being held by Dudley Kingswinford Running Club, Heathbrook, Swindon Road, Wall Heath, Kingswinford, West Midlands, DY6 0AW.
A Map showing all of the roads involved may be inspected during normal working hours at the office of the Director for Economy, Infrastructure and Skills, Highways, 1 Staffordshire Place, Tipping Street, Stafford, ST16 2DH and can be viewed at www.staffordshire.gov.uk/trafficregulationorders
John Tradewell, Director for Staffords, Governance and Change
1 Staffordshire Place, Tipping Street, Stafford, ST16 2DH.
Enquiries: Customer Contact Centre Tel: 0300 111 8000.
Date: 29th April 2016

WILLIAM ERIC COOPER (Deceased)
Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of One House 87 Hagley Road Oldswinford West Midlands DY8 1QY formerly of 25 Priory Court Oldswinford West Midlands DY8 1NJ, who died on 11/04/2016, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 08/07/2016, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.
TALBOTS LAW LIMITED
63 Market Street Stourbridge West Midlands DY8 1AQ

10 Personals
personal

LOOKING FOR MY SON Mr A Lewis
Last seen Wolverhampton Please get in touch
Box Number P20316, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

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Single Women

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.

JENNY, 48, single independent attractive lady, tall and leggy, sensual and looking for very special male friend. Only genuine callers pls. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422033** **5**

SHARON a young 49, caring bubbly sincere single lady, full curvy figure, loves the coast and seaside, cosy meals in WLTm male with similar interests. **Text only Mailbox: 5444189**

CHRIS, 40, blue eyed blonde single female, lots of interests, loves travel, beach, nights in/out, looking for mature sincere gent for possible LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422013** **5**

TALL leggy slim brunette 37, attractive and very much single, WLTm fun loving guy 40-60yrs who loves food, wine, cosy nights in or out. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422029** **5**

PRETTY, very fit, young 49 year old female, no baggage, seeks fit, refined male, n/s, with young outlook, for evenings out. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421977**

CILLA, 40, tall blue eyed size 12 brunette, loves horses, country/beach walks, cosy nights infront of fire, good wine/food, WLTm similar male who appreciates my interests. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422009** **5**

TINA, 43, young looking attractive single female looking for love, with similar lonely heart resorting to advertising in the hope of finding love. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421613** **5**

ANNA, 41, new to single life seeking caring professional male for no strings fun, attention and laughter. Life is too short, lets enjoy it! Call me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421127** **5**

LOVELY lady inside and out, likes music, art, days out, countryside, poetry, model railways, socialising, DVDs, looking for a kind hearted at heart, 52+, with a caring nature and GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421935** **5**

FEMALE, 60s, young looking for my age, likes singing, dancing, meals in and out, theatre, fun to be with. Single would like to meet the same. **Text only Mailbox: 5448634**

CARING honest female WLTm genuine guy for LTR in Glos/Bristol area. Text mail box only. **Text only Mailbox: 4209465**

MANDY divorced independent 46yrs old, confident, bubbly and social, looking for male companion to share good times and to be there for each other. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421841** **5**

CURVY Irish female 35yrs looking for fun, frolics, weekends away and lots of excitement with reliable male, discretion assured. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421877** **5**

FEMALE seeks male to wine and dine me, and treat me like a lady, aged between 50 and 60. **Text only Mailbox: 5444151**

BROWN eyed brummie female, smoker, likes music, cinema, meals out, WLTm white male for LTR. **Text only Mailbox: 440186**

SHARON 49, med to well built, cuddly, young at heart, happy easygoing, loves the coast and seaside looking for honest friendly male. **Text only Mailbox: 5444189**

ROSEMARY early 50s, GSOH, likes meals out, travel, etc, looking for man to share these things with. **N/S. Text only Mailbox: 5079890**

SUE 40s female who enjoys evenings in/out looking for someone to have some fun and hopefully get close to, go on, give me a ring. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421809** **5**

REBECCA tall slim elegant long legged romantic, sensual, professional, lots to offer, seeks similar male who also appreciates the finer things in life. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421583** **5**

CARING honest female, WLTm genuine guy for LTR in Glos/Bristol area. **Text only Mailbox: 4209465**

TRISH, 45, tall slim young/good looking GSOH, professional, solvent, OHAC, affectionate and loves life, WLTm male who also likes to be in a loving relationship, 39-50yrs. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421137** **5**

Customer support
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or email us at **support@jmediauk.co.uk**

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Have the adverts 6-digit box no written down and do **key-it-in promptly** when asked. Don't forget to leave contact details for replies.

To **Reply** by text:

Text... REPLY26 (leave space) box number (leave space) and then enter your message & send to 80098 eg: **REPLY26 123456 hi get in touch...** then send to 80098 Successfully received messages cost £1.50 per SMS received (Max 160 characters). You must exchange 7 messages each before you can swap contact details. Messages may be moderated for your safety and security.



Dates in **YOUR** region

Been left a message?
Pickup your replies on:

0906 500 3957

calls cost £1.55 per min plus your phone company's access charge.

It's cheaper now to refresh your love life online!

Unlimited use for just £19.95 per month

VISIT: <http://dating.expressandstar.com>



MALE, 59, 5ft2, average build, looking for a genuine, caring lady, 55-65. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421089**

SMOKIN' rock geezer, 53, into giggling & camping WLTm rock chick 46-58ish, into similar, to share experiences, GSOH essential! **Text only Mailbox: 5414037**

ADVENTUROUS 35yr old male, slim, dark hair, likes music, bike rides and photography, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417235** **5**

50ISH male, seeking lady 60-75 for daytime fun, must be discreet. **Text only Mailbox: 4624030**

GRAHAM, 50s, 5ft10, blue eyes, very smart, chfy for no strings fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421103**

CARING male, 55, N/S, medium build, likes meals out, music, cinema, sports, driving, seeks female, 40-60 for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 239148**

MALE 63, N/S, honest, GSOH, car owner, seeks female, 55-70 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416817**

GENUINE male, 58, OHAC, looking for fun lady for no strings fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417601**

PHIL 57, OHAC, discreet, seeks no strings fun with younger female. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414991**

MALE 45yrs old, self-employed motor trader/mechanic, medium build, green eyes, average looks. I am a nice genuine and honest person looking for similar lady to share a honest permanent relationship and happy times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418709** **5**

SOUTH Notts guy, 60, medium 5'10 seeks attractive lady for evening & weekend fun. **Text only Mailbox: 533975**

MALE 63, N/S, GSOH, genuine, caring, likes music, travel, meals out, casual drink, seeks female, 50-70 for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416997**

PHIL 55, divorced, 5ft 10ins, slim, OHAC, seeks female, 18 plus for discreet adult fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401875**

WALSALL male looking for lady for no strings adult fun on a regular basis, within 10 miles of Walsall is preferred but not essential, age/looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420873** **5**

Gay Singles

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.

Bl guy WLTm guy for discreet fun. **Text only Mailbox: 5142373**

JAMIE 35, 5ft10 size 10/12 TV seeks male Le area, can accommodate. **Text only Mailbox: 4765749**

BL-CURIOS male, 46, WLTm other males any age or colour, weekdays or weekends, can travel. Wolverhampton/Tettenhall areas. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421851** **5**

I would like to meet a babe for some good fun aged 50 plus, if interested please get in touch. **Text only Mailbox: 4179998**

BL-CURIOS 45 years old, slim and good looking, looking for younger bi-curious guy for discreet fun. **Text only to Mailbox: 4917435**

57YR old male, slim, fit, seeks guy, 30-45 for fun and friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 309951**

Just Friends

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.

LUKE 60's, seeking young Asian friend, 20-30's to socialise with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414841** **5**

MODERN young at heart lonely lady, 70's, likes trips out, holidays, seeking similar lady for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410215**

SUE, 39, slim feminine brunette, caring, fun loving, independent, no ties, OHAC, loves cooking, WLTm willing male to get to know and spend quality times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421617** **5**

DONNA 42yrs young separated female who is ready to start dating again, bubbly, attractive, blonde and raring to get going, come on don't keep me waiting! **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421567** **5**

SARA, 39, home owner, likes animals, tattoos and texting, looking for friendship hopefully leading to more. Get in touch! **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421455** **5**

ATTRACTIVE, slim woman looking for fun and excitement with guy 35-40 pls text. **Text only Mailbox: 5419773**

TINA, 43, young looking attractive single female looking for love, with similar lonely heart resorting to advertising in the hope of finding love. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421613** **5**

MANDY, 45, friendly outgoing arty female who loves winning/dining, looking for male to sweep me off my feet, take me out and make me feel special, reciprocation guaranteed. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421503** **5**

SALLY 37 blonde, blue eyed, who loves life, music, letting my hair down, looking for similar fit guy for enjoy tic and life. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421451** **5**

LOUISE 35, loves meals out, WLTm tallish, considerate mature male who is not frightened to express themselves and enjoy life. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421135** **5**

ANGELA, 42, green eyed dark haired feminine lady who enjoys walking and keeping fit, seeking lonely kind gentleman for good times and more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421115** **5**

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.

MARGARET 39, dark hair/eyed attractive petite divorcee, new to area and looking to start a new life, WLTm child friendly male, single dad welcome. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421129** **5**

ANNA, 41, new to single life seeking caring professional male for no strings fun, attention and laughter. Life is too short, lets enjoy it! Call me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421127** **5**

HONEST sincere affectionate nurse, 48, OHAC, WLTm child friendly male/single dad for dates, chats, laughter and more. Any age. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421111** **5**

LLY, genuine lady looking for a genuine man. I like cosy nights in and am a smoker. **Text only mailbox no: 5372466**

TRISH, 44, tall slim young/good looking GSOH, professional, solvent, OHAC, affectionate and loves tic, WLTm male who also likes to be in a loving relationship, 39-50yrs. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420601** **5**

MADDIE extremely passionate female 37, seeks reliable male to enjoy the finer things in life and tactile relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420563** **5**

JANE attractive, feminine open-minded mature female genuinely looking for adult fun. No time wasters please. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409715** **5**

CHRIS, 40, attractive slim sophisticated redhead, seeking male 30-50's to relax with and get to know. Discretion assured. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420491** **5**

SALLY, 46, slim attractive fiery redhead, intelligent, easygoing, WLTm similar male for friendship and more, looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420475** **5**

LOUISE, 47, youthful looking female looking for spontaneous male to put some love and lust back into life. Call me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420445** **5**

ALEXA 49 - slim, attractive, long-haired music loving female, with many interests including dining out, the arts, photography WLTm similar male. **Text only to Mailbox no: 5345662**

CHLOE pretty single female 36yrs, dark hair/eyes, slim build, very lonely and looking for reliable discreet male for mutual companionship maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420359** **5**

ANN, 38, very attractive female, N/S, positive attitude to life, WLTm similar male with a lot of get up and go for romance and fun times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420355** **5**

JACKIE lonely and looking for male company, 48-65. Need a bit of love and affection? Then I'm your girl. call me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418169** **5**

SARAH, curvaceous brunette, 35, passionate nature, solvent, OHAC, WLTm date again, looking for male to take me out. Looks/Age unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422027** **5**

LYN, 43, divorced very lonely single mum, young looking, slim, attractive, WLTm similar male for companionship. Age/looks/Status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418799** **5**

LUCY, 32, blonde, tall and slim, looking for a casual fling, nothing serious. Discretion needed and assured. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420237**

JULIA 47, looking for genuine, reasonably attractive male friend, may be lead to more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419695** **5**

39 yr old independent single Mom, knows the benefit of having a good man in the picture. **Text only to Mailbox no: 5084796**

48 year old, slim, green eyed female, n/s, likes meals out, local theatre, live local bands, nights in, looking for a gentleman, 48-52, for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420639** **5**

FEMALE, 37, new to area, would like to meet nice trustworthy man, for friendship hopefully more. **Text only to mailbox: 5392585**

CAROL 37 attractive slim brunette, curves in all the right places, nice personality, good company, looking for caring man for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420757** **5**

BEV 30yr old curvy attractive female, likes music, travel, animals, cosy nights in front of a log fire, looking for affectionate male for good times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420715** **5**

SUE, 46, confident professional, sporty/active, seeking sensitive interesting guy for intimate evenings in with great food and conversations. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420701** **5**

CAROLINE, 42yrs, slim attractive blonde, varied interests and solvent, WLTm honest male of any age. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420685** **5**

CHRIS, 67, brunette, cuddly, WLTm caring, kind gentleman, for days out, meals out, walks etc and for just being together. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420667**

TRISH, 44, tall slim young/good looking GSOH, professional, solvent, OHAC, affectionate and loves tic, WLTm male who also likes to be in a loving relationship, 39-50yrs. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420601** **5**

MADDIE extremely passionate female 37, seeks reliable male to enjoy the finer things in life and tactile relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420563** **5**

JANE attractive, feminine open-minded mature female genuinely looking for adult fun. No time wasters please. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409715** **5**

CHRIS, 40, attractive slim sophisticated redhead, seeking male 30-50's to relax with and get to know. Discretion assured. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420491** **5**

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KELLY young attractive vivacious 48yr old lady, loves good food, cosy nights in/out, holidays etc, WLTm male for mutual companionship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420195** **5**

CATHY, 42, good looking brunette with a real passion for life, seeking male for happy times, dates, chats, romance and more. Pls call. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420175** **5**

TARA 22 tall slim but curvy with legs that go all the way up to heaven, WLTm very appreciative confident male for adult fun. Contact me anytime. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414701** **5**

FEMALE, dark haired 5'10, curvy, likes reading, walking, cinema, seeks male 40-50 for lasting relationship. **Text only to Mailbox no: 5077545**

PROFESSIONAL black female age 52, enjoys evenings and days out, would like to meet similar Midlands male. **Text only to Mailbox no: 5315901**

CATHY, 42, good looking brunette with a real passion for life, seeking male for happy times, dates, chats, romance and more. Pls call. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420073** **5**

Single Men

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DARREN, 44, slim build, dark brown hair, green eyes, seeks genuine female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418809**

IAN, 5ft8, medium build, choc, late 50s, likes nice things, holidays, gardening, etc, WLTm similar aged lady, 50-60, with nice personality. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421345** **5**

WAYNE, 40, cheeky, good career, likes gym. Looking for a lady who likes stimulating conversation and times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419629**

MALE, 56, slim, 6ft, considerate and caring seeks similar type female to share life with. **Text only Mailbox: 5288635**

EDDIE, honest, caring, down to earth, likes all kinds of music, going out and having a good time, looking for a Black or Polish lady, for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422019** **5**

MALE



The Albion team who were in action in Belgrade. Back row, left to right, Brendon Batson, Ally Robertson, Tony Godden, Cyrille Regis, Bryan Robson, Ally Brown. Front: Derek Statham, Tony Brown, John Wile, Laurie Cunningham, John Trewick



Over to you, skipper...At the controls of the jet to Belgrade was Albion captain John Wile as team-mates arrive behind the Iron Curtain at the airport in Belgrade, Yugoslavia



Front of 'queue' are Albion players Ally Brown, Brendon Batson, Alistair Robertson and Bryan Robson posing with two air stewardesses

Albion feel the heat in a chilly challenge

SPORTING MEMORIES

By Joseph Masi

THERE is nothing more daunting than facing 95,000 hostile supporters on a cold night in eastern Europe. But 37 years ago, that was the challenge faced by Ron Atkinson's Albion side on their UEFA Cup adventure.

A Baggies side packed full of stars, travelled out to Yugoslavia to take on Red Star Belgrade at their imposing Marakana stadium.

Having previously defeated Galatasaray, Braga and Valencia, Atkinson's men had made it through to the quarter-finals of the tournament – the first time in the club's history they had successfully navigated through three rounds of European competition.

The day before, Albion's players headed to a local television studio to watch a tape of their unknown opposition.

Pressure

And as they ran onto the pitch, an astonishing crowd of 95,300 supporters lay in wait for what turned into a fiercely contested encounter from two well-matched sides.

Atkinson's line-up included Ally Robertson, Bryan Robson, Cyrille Regis, Laurie Cunningham and Ally Brown.

Albion started the fixture slowly and had to withstand lots of early Red Star pressure as they adapted to playing under a whistle-happy referee unused to a physical English game.

And they held on until the 85th minute, before a superbly struck free-kick from Dusan Savic – which clipped the inside of the post before finding the top corner – settled the first leg.

"Red Star were dead until that goal came," said a deflated Atkinson afterwards.

"Red Star were dead until that goal came. All the sparkle and life had gone and I could see us getting back to The Hawthorns with a 0-0 draw."

son afterwards. "All the sparkle and life had gone out of their game and I could see us getting back to The Hawthorns with a 0-0 draw."

"But having said that, I must admit it was a superbly taken goal," he added.

"Mind you they had several similar chances early in the match and everyone was blocked by our solid defensive wall."

"They also have a reputation for being good at the back and now we know just how good they are."

Upon their return to England, Atkinson's Albion geared up for an FA Cup fifth round clash with Southampton – a match which they drew 1-1.

The return leg against Belgrade, at the Hawthorns, then took place on March 21 with the two teams battling to a 1-1 draw that saw Albion lose the tie 2-1 on aggregate.

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Veterans in visit to mark 10th birthday

Lutonians 22 Stourbridge 26
IN a fractious dead rubber at which only local bragging rights were at stake, the short trip to Herefordshire's Mortimer Park saw Stour's rollercoaster form hit another upward curve.

They clawed back the hosts' early lead and had secured a 16-point lead and bonus-point fourth try just after the hour mark. The hosts rallied but Stour's stubborn, hardworking defence – the single consistent feature of their season – held them out until two late tries were rewarded with a couple of bonus points.

With Lucs having recovered to mid-table safety after a rock-bottom position at Christmas, these two sides are assured to meet again in National 2 North in 2016-17.

Stour's try scorers were flankers Nigel Mukarati and Joe Carpenter, winger Ash Elvers and centre Joe Heatley. The game also featured a welcome return for second row Nick Murphy, sidelined since September with a knee injury.

Stour's final encounter of 2015-16 will be at champions Macclesfield on April 30.

Tomorrow night (Friday), at Stourton Park, a veterans team returns to the scene of its first ever touring game.

Garstang Old Viagrans formed in 2006 and ventured to Stourbridge a year later for their first tour game, winning 31-24. In a game to mark their 10th anniversary, they take on Stourbridge Grasshoppers under the floodlights at 7pm.

Cradley rain again after unbeaten run ended by Brummies

CRADLEY returned to winning ways with a comfortable 45-27 victory over King's Lynn in a rain-affected meeting on Monday night.

Heavy showers throughout caused a number of delays before a torrential downpour prior to heat 13 saw the meeting abandoned with the result standing.

CRADLEY 45: Luke Chessell 12+1, Ashley Morris 9, Dan Bewley 8+1, Max Clegg 8, Ben Basford 5, Bradley Andrews 3+1, Jack Kingston 1+1.

KING'S LYNN 27: Tom Stokes 6, Josh Bailey 6, Nathan Greaves 6, Scott Campos 4+2, Ryan Kinsley 2+2, Shane Hazelden 2, Layne Cupitt 1.

The team go to Coventry next Friday, May 6, before returning to Monmore for more National League action against the Isle of Wight on Monday, May 9.

Champions Birmingham had earlier launched the defence of their Travel Plus National League title by crushing Cradley 55-35 at Perry Barr. Heathens had themselves been unbeaten before the fixture.

BIRMINGHAM 55: Zach Wainwright 12+1, Tom Perry 11, Darryl Ritcheson 10, Jack Parkinson-Blackburn 7+4, Danyon Hume 6+2, Tom Bacon 6+2, Jack Smith 3.

CRADLEY 35: Ashley Morris 10, Luke Chessell 9+1, Max Clegg 9, Jack Kingston 3+1, Bradley Andrews 2, Ben Basford 2, James Purchase 0.

Heathens, meanwhile, have unveiled plans for their showpiece Golden Hammer individual event which is set to pack the Monmore terraces this summer.

The meeting, one of the most famous open meetings on the domestic calendar, will take place on Tuesday, August 9 and will once again be promoting Dudley Stroke Association.

Glassgirls earn promotion stripes



Stourbridge Ladies celebrate their promotion

STOURBRIDGE Ladies are celebrating promotion to the West Midlands Regional Women's Football League.

A 1-1 draw with Tamworth Ladies, who secured the title after remaining undefeated in the league all season, meant Stourbridge Ladies had to settle for second place finish in the Birmingham County Women's League Premier Division.

After going behind the Glassgirls dominated the match and had a penalty saved just before the break.

They were also denied three times by the woodwork before Sarah Lojko headed in the

equaliser to spark a frantic final 20 minutes. After promotion last season from Division 1, the Glassgirls have been unbeaten since losing their second match of the season 1-0 away to Tamworth.

Silverware

As runners-up the Glassgirls will be promoted to the West Midlands Regional Women's Football League and they still have a chance of securing some silverware in the BCWL Open Cup Final, which will be against Starland St Anne's at Bedworth United FC on Sunday, May 22.

PLAY-OFFS JUST OUT OF REACH

Stourbridge 1 Salford City 2

THE Glassboys missed out on the play-offs following this defeat which consigned them to sixth spot.

Following Thursday's 2-1 defeat at Frickley Athletic – Karl Hawley's goal wiped out by two late penalties – Stourbridge knew they had to win to make sure their season didn't end on a low note.

Salford arrived at Amblecote already safe in the knowledge they had secured third place and a home tie in the play-offs. And it was the visitors who took the lead after 10 minutes.

Speedy striker Michael Itela stole in at the far post to convert John Johnston's right wing cross after Glassboys goalkeeper Matthew Gould and central defender Stuart Pierpoint seemed unaware of the diminutive marksman's presence.

Pierpoint quickly atoned by equalising on 21 minutes when netting with a glancing header following a Tom Tonks cross.

Stourbridge squandered a great chance right on the stroke of half-time when Chris Lait picked out striker Karl Hawley with a defence-splitting cross but the league's leading goalscorer couldn't apply sufficient power in his header and Salford shot-stopper Jay Lynch managed to save.

Handle

Stourbridge began the second half by bombarding the Salford goal with a series of long-range throw-ins from Tonks. But Salford's defence held firm and survived a penalty scare when full-back Stephen O'Halloran appeared to handle and prevent George Bowerman from advancing on goal.

Despite heated protests, referee Neil Radford ignored the home appeals and Salford started to threaten on the counter attack.

Itela broke through on 63 minutes but goalkeeper Gould bravely blocked his initial shot before Dan Scarr got back to clear off the line.

On 72 minutes, Salford silenced a massive Amblecote crowd when they took the lead, Clark picking out Joseph Mwasiile on the right who in turn crossed for Itela to turn home.

Disappointed Glassboys boss Gary Hackett admitted: "We finished sixth for a reason and over 46 games we've been sixth best. We can't escape the fact we've conceded too many goals over the season."

Final clinched in last ball drama



Former First Class Umpire Peter Stevens presents Scott Tremain with the Granger Trophy for Dumbleton CC



Peter Stevens presents Malcolm Jones with Worcester League division 2 trophy for Worcester Nomads C

WCB Indoor County Finals: Worcester Nomads A (87-4) lost to Hagley (88-2)

HAGLEY came out on top in a tight contest between the two unbeaten sides from the Worcester and Kinver leagues.

Nomads found batting difficult against the new ball and were 35-2 after six overs. Joe Laugher (27 no) and Rich Henry (23) added some respectability but an 87 target is always difficult to defend. At only 28-1 after six overs, Worcester pushed on, winning in the final over.

Dumbleton (128-0) beat Nomads B (125) by 3 runs

AN exciting match that went to the final ball with Nomads 'B' failing to score from it.

Dumbleton's innings was a master class of patience and application as they posted a decent score without loss. Nomads 'B' were ahead

of the rate after six overs. But two quick run-outs brought the tailenders in who struggled to maintain the scoring for three successive overs.

With six balls left, 20 were needed. Two wides and a no-ball led to three extra deliveries and some optimism. Tareq Jamil (13), Sean Butler (19) and Derek Austin were all run out, with 16 added, Jamil playing over the final ball. **Final: Dumbleton (128-4) beat Hagley (126-3)**

AT halfway, Hagley had 70 on the board without loss and two men to come back in. But they did not press home their advantage.

In reply, Dumbleton had 59 from the first six overs, then 102 after 10.

For the final over, 14 was needed, the batsmen got out chasing a run. A wide from the first ball had given an extra opportunity for Dumbleton, who scored the winning runs from the final ball.

Title decider goes down to the wire

FOR only the second time in the 36 years since the Premier Division of the Stourbridge & District Snooker League was founded, a play-off was required to decide the champions after the teams had tied on the number of points.

West Midlands Police beat Norton Social 3-2 at Amblecote in front of around 70 spectators.

The snooker was occasionally brilliant and often error-strewn, but made for compelling viewing.

Ashley Aston clinched the first frame for Norton, who won the 2015 championship, but Pete Gibbons levelled.

Norton's Rob Pitt then played some of the most fluent snooker of the evening, hardly giving his opponent Maria Catalano a chance, and she conceded on the colours.

The police were given a reprieve as Elliott Bastable cleared up to take the fourth frame 58-57.

The final frame was also a nail-biter, but Kev Griffiths won it to give West Midlands Police their first championship, the cup being presented to their captain Carl Southwick by League President Mike Pritchard.

Two West Midlands Police players contested the Premier Division Individual at Amblecote Institute and Elliott Bastable beat Maria Catalano 4-1.

In the Over-45 Individual Handicap at Stourbridge Old Edwardian Club, Tony Kidd, of Pockets, defeated West Midlands Police's Kev Franklin 3-0, giving him his third Eric Martin Memorial title, but his first win over his rival after 30 years of trying.

Franklin, who won the cup three times in succession from 2011, is a seven-time winner of the Premier singles, and a five-time Individual Handicap winner. It had been 20 years to the day that Franklin had become Midland Amateur champion.

Yeltz end with win but Hyde are down

Hyde Utd 0 Halesowen Town 1

HALESOWEN Town completed their season with a win at relegated Hyde, Tyree Clarke getting the winner.

Clarke has been a success at The Grove since joining from rivals Stourbridge two months ago and has helped the Yeltz to finish comfortably in mid-table in the Northern Premier League.

Kaiman Anderson struck the post on 51 minutes but a minute later provided the cross which came back to Clarke who made no mistake.

Zeekell Parkes hit the bar and Peter Boyle ended wide as Hyde pushed for an equaliser.

★★★

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Thursday, April 28, 2016



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